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BATMAN

NO. 255 APR. 30430

BATMAN

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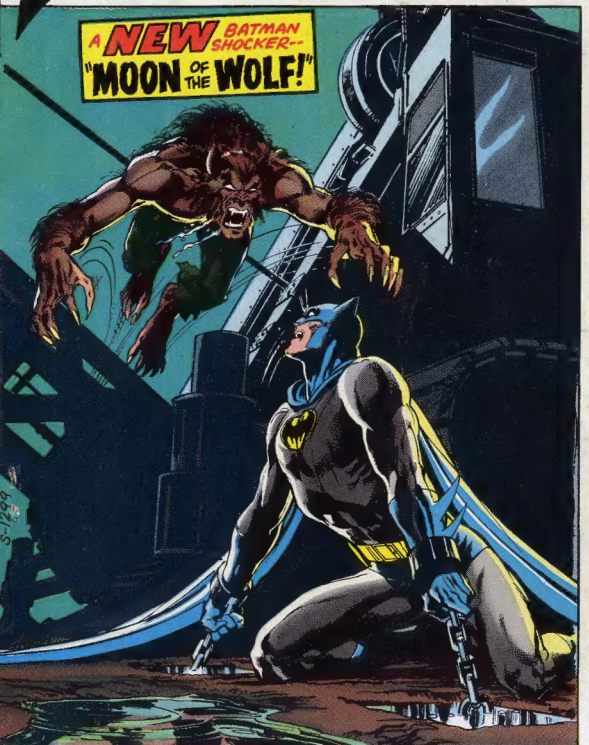
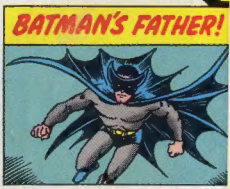
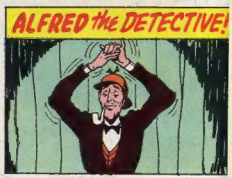
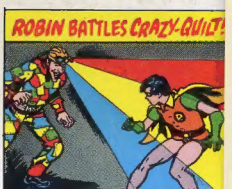
MEET THE BATMAN FAMILY









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So, when you think you're ready for a Daisy, talk it over with your parents. Tell them you're ready to take on the responsibility of ownership.

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N-341

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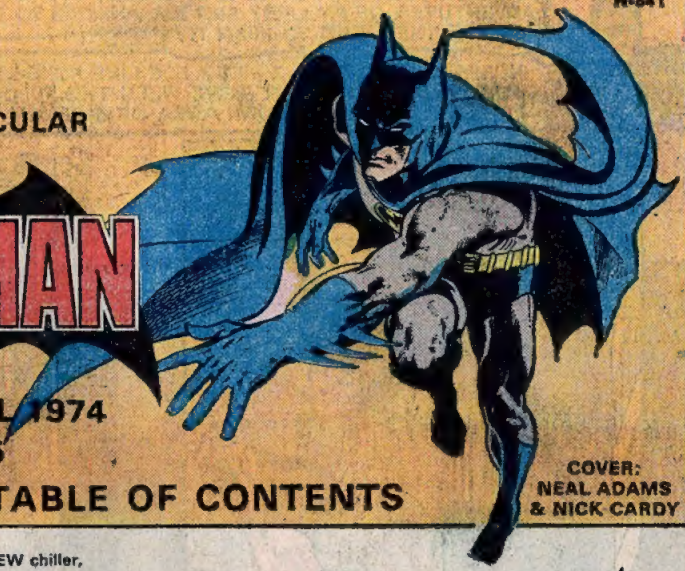
SUPER-SPECTACULAR

BAT MAN



MARCH-APRIL 1974
NO. 255

COVER: NEAL ADAMS & NICK CARDY

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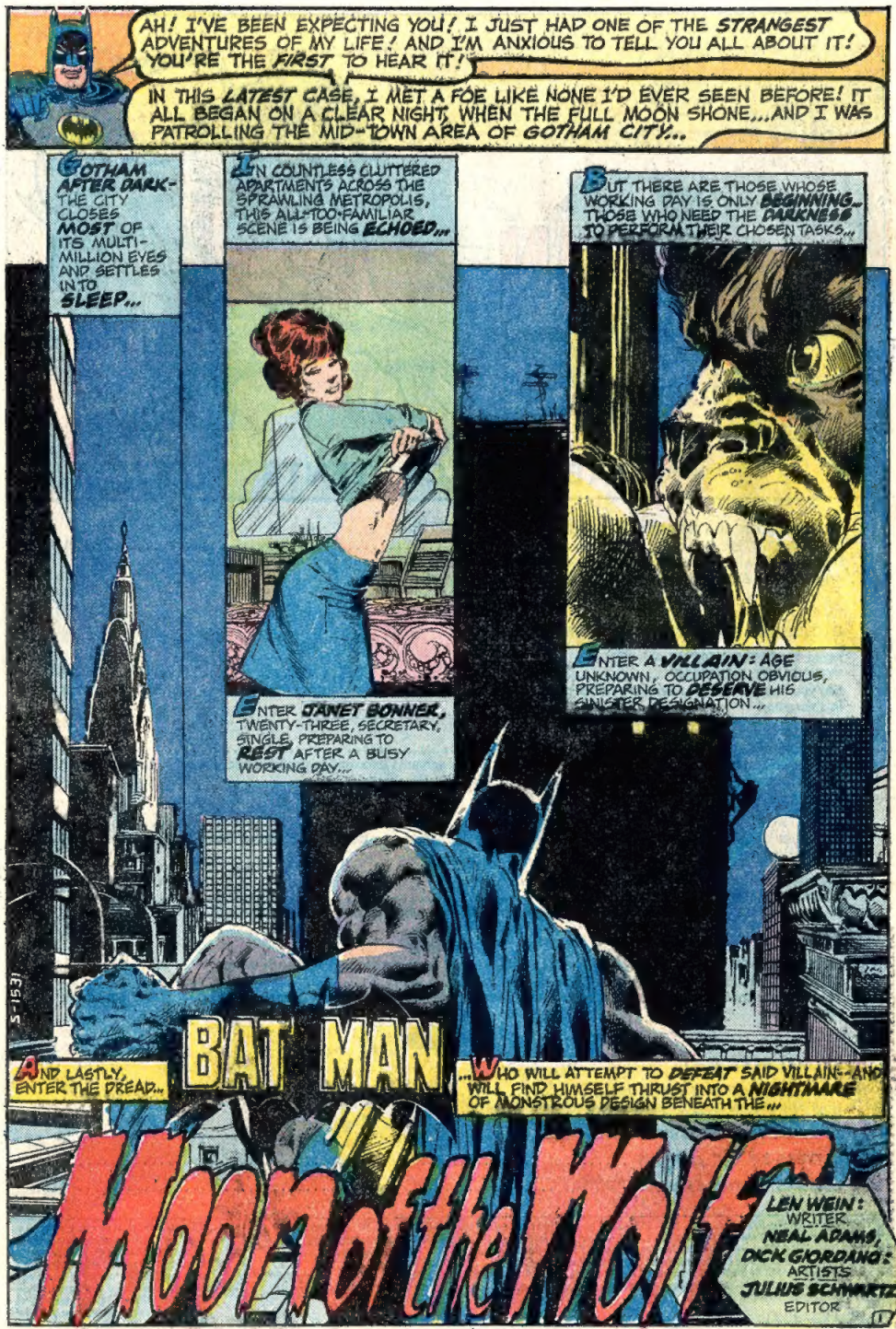
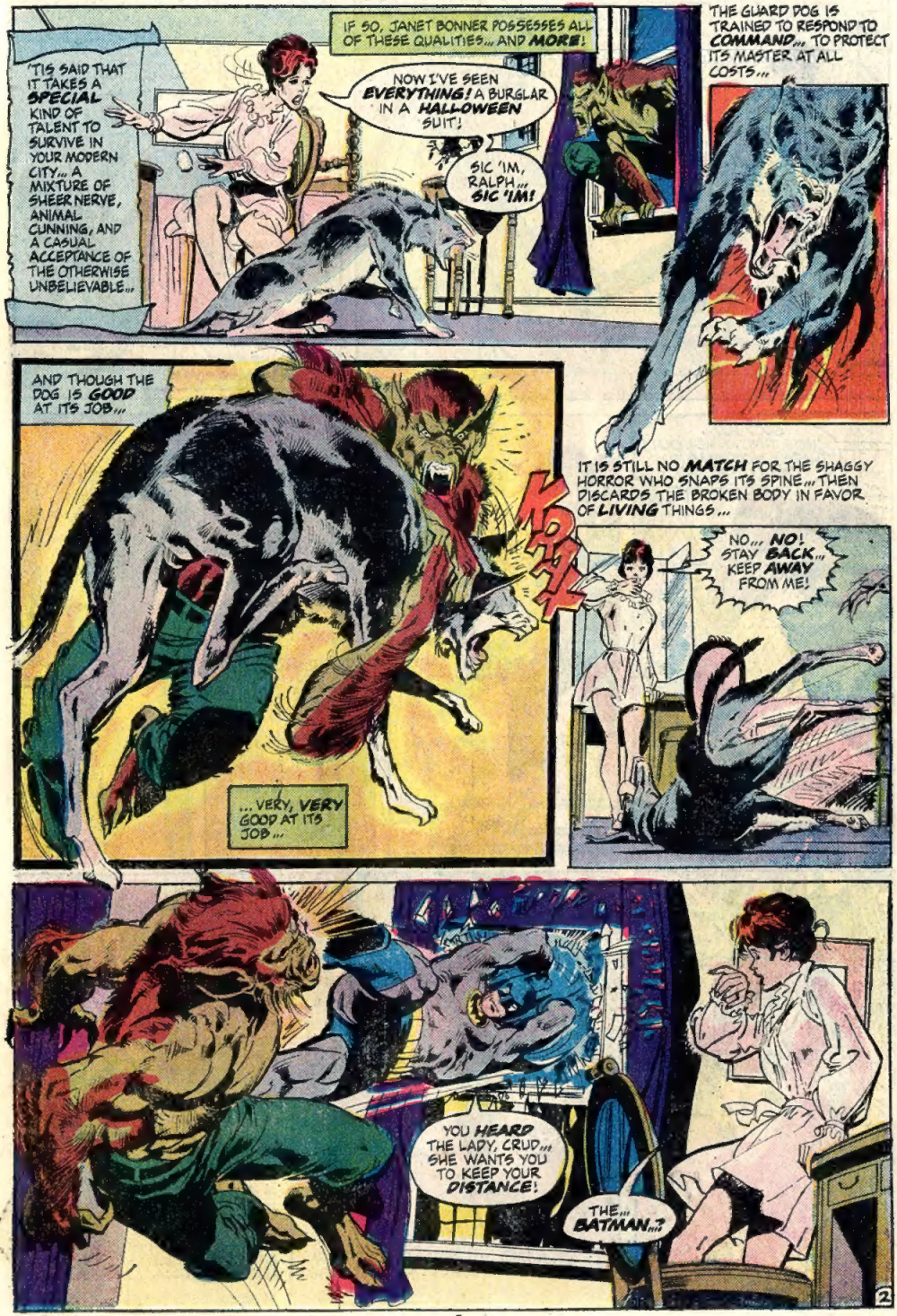
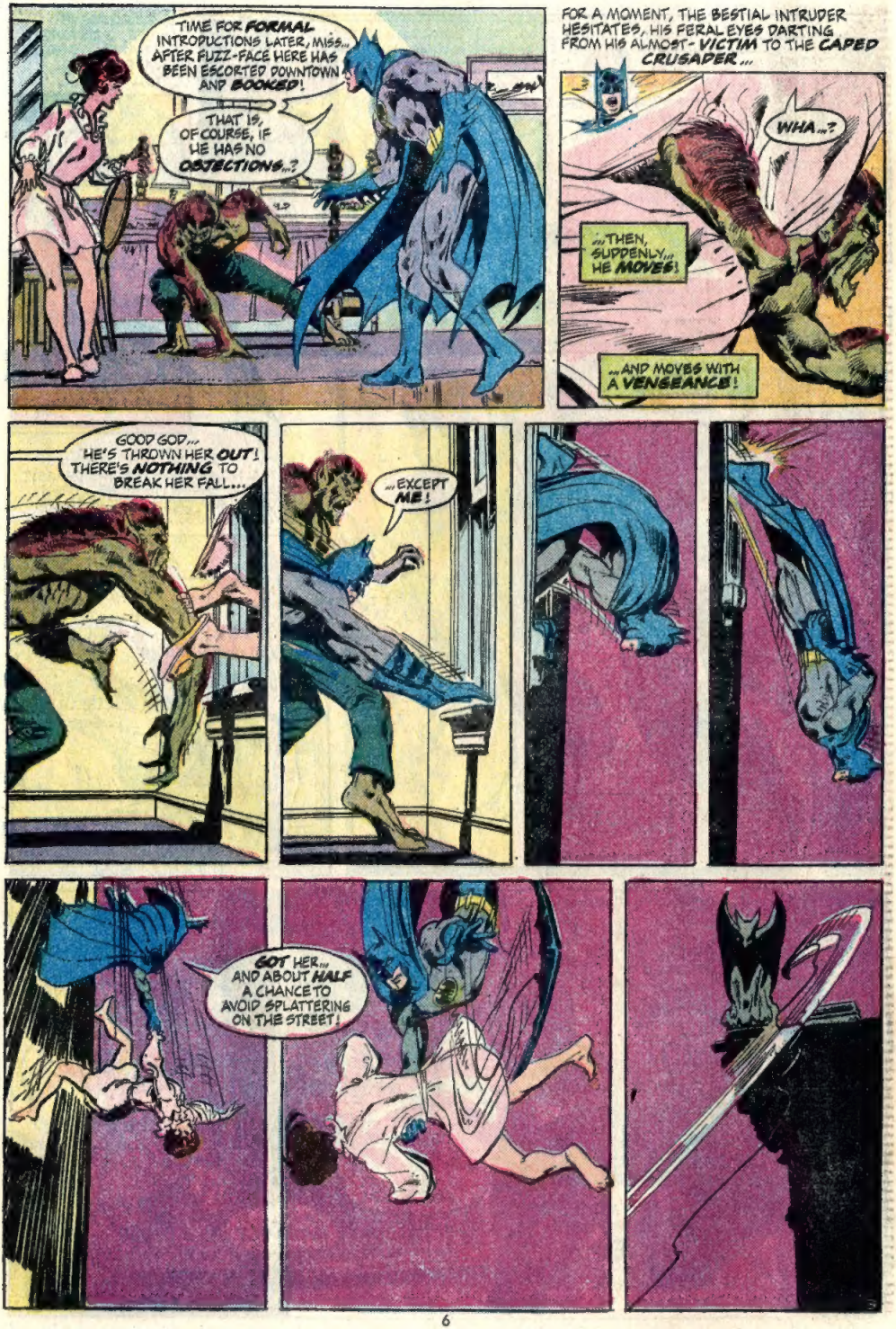
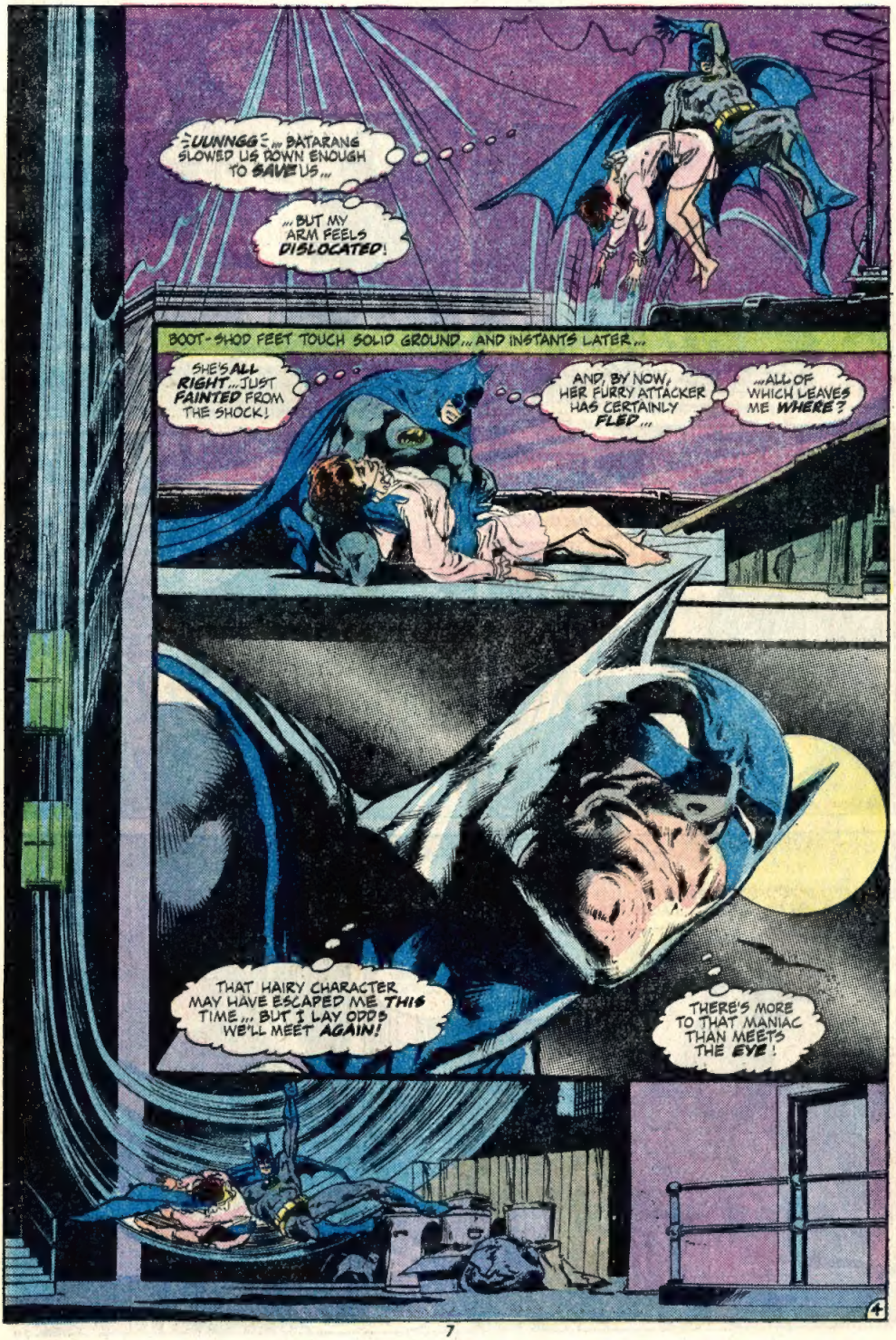
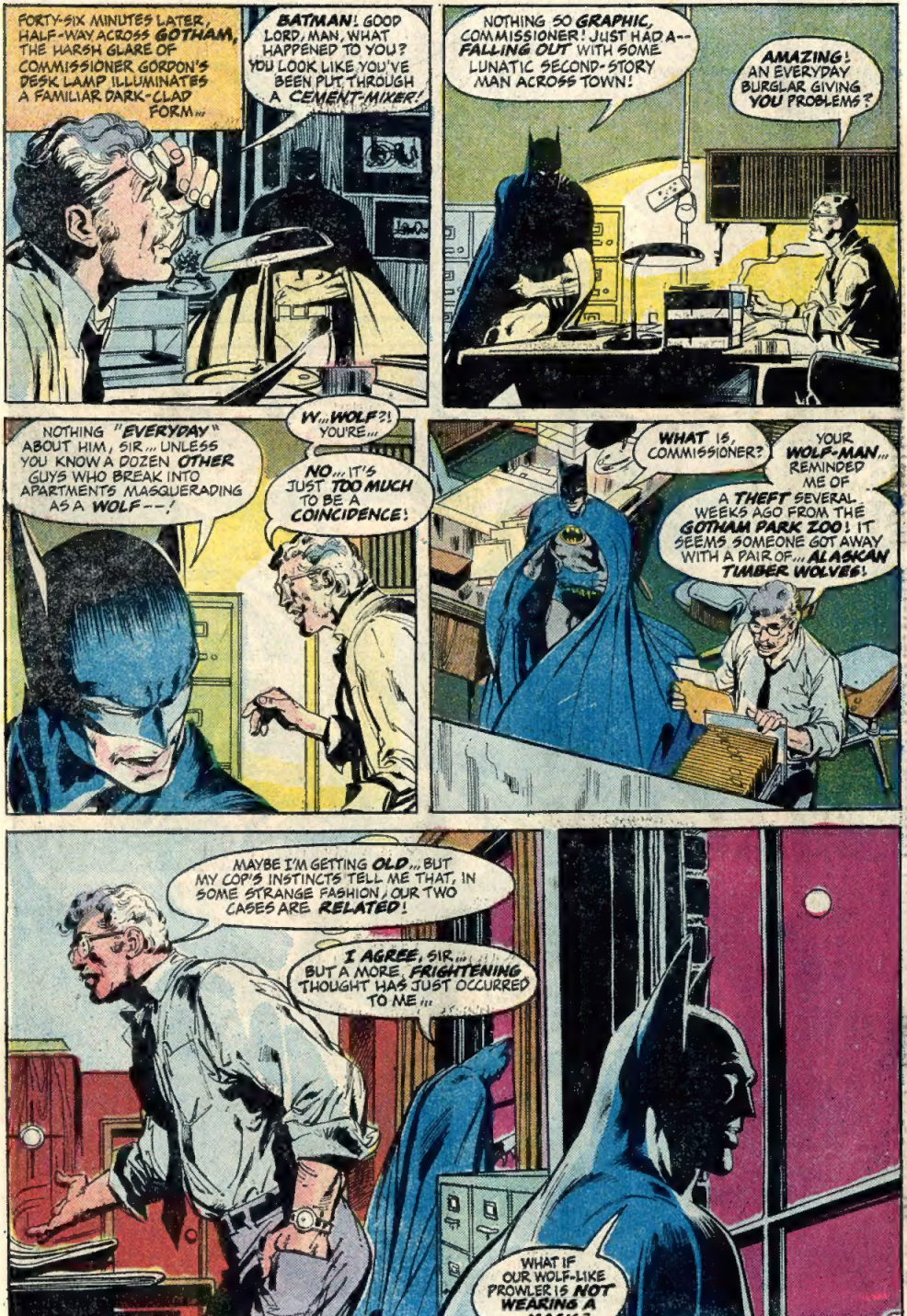

AH! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU! I JUST HAD ONE OF THE STRANGEST ADVENTURES OF MY LIFE! AND I'M ANXIOUS TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT! YOU'RE THE FIRST TO HEAR IT!
IN THIS LATEST CASE, I MET A FOE LIKE NONE I'D EVER SEEN BEFORE! IT ALL BEGAN ON A CLEAR NIGHT, WHEN THE FULL MOON SHONE...AND I WAS PATROLLING THE MID-TOWN AREA OF GOTHAM CITY...
GOTHAM AFTER DARK- THE CITY CLOSES MOST OF ITS MULTI-MILLION EYES AND SETTLES IN TO SLEEP...
IN COUNTLESS CLUTTERED APARTMENTS ACROSS THE SPRAWLING METROPOLIS, THIS ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR SCENE IS BEING ECHOED...
ENTER JANET BONNER, TWENTY-THREE, SECRETARY, SINGLE, PREPARING TO REST AFTER A BUSY WORKING DAY...
BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE WORKING DAY IS ONLY BEGINNING- THOSE WHO NEED THE DARKNESS TO PERFORM THEIR CHOSEN TASKS...
ENTER A VILLAIN: AGE UNKNOWN, OCCUPATION OBVIOUS, PREPARING TO DESERVE HIS SINISTER DESIGNATION...
S-1531
AND LASTLY, ENTER THE DREAD...
BAT MAN
...WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO DEFEAT SAID VILLAIN--AND WILL FIND HIMSELF THRUST INTO A NIGHTMARE OF MONSTROUS DESIGN BENEATH THE...
Moon of the Wolf
LEN WEIN: WRITER
NEAL ADAMS, DICK GIORDANO: ARTISTS
JULIUS SCHWARTZ: EDITOR
1


'TIS SAID THAT IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF TALENT TO SURVIVE IN YOUR MODERN CITY... A MIXTURE OF SHEER NERVE, ANIMAL CUNNING, AND A CASUAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE OTHERWISE UNBELIEVABLE...
IF SO, JANET BONNER POSSESSES ALL OF THESE QUALITIES... AND MORE!
NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! A BURGLAR IN A HALLOWEEN SUIT!
SIC 'IM, RALPH... SIC 'IM!
THE GUARD DOG IS TRAINED TO RESPOND TO COMMAND... TO PROTECT ITS MASTER AT ALL COSTS...
AND THOUGH THE DOG IS GOOD AT ITS JOB...
KRAK
... VERY, VERY GOOD AT ITS JOB...
IT IS STILL NO MATCH FOR THE SHAGGY HORROR WHO SNAPS ITS SPINE... THEN DISCARDS THE BROKEN BODY IN FAVOR OF LIVING THINGS...
NO... NO! STAY BACK... KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
YOU HEARD THE LADY, CRUD... SHE WANTS YOU TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
THE... BATMAN...?
2


TIME FOR FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS LATER, MISS... AFTER FUZZ-FACE HERE HAS BEEN ESCORTED DOWNTOWN AND BOOKED!
THAT IS, OF COURSE, IF HE HAS NO OBJECTIONS...?
FOR A MOMENT, THE BESTIAL INTRUDER HESITATES, HIS FERAL EYES DARTING FROM HIS ALMOST-VICTIM TO THE CAPED CRUSADER...
WHA...?
...THEN, SUDDENLY, HE MOVES!
...AND MOVES WITH A VENGEANCE!
GOOD GOD... HE'S THROWN HER OUT! THERE'S NOTHING TO BREAK HER FALL...
...EXCEPT ME!
GOT HER... AND ABOUT HALF A CHANCE TO AVOID SPLATTERING ON THE STREET!


=UUNNGG= ... BATARANG SLOWED US DOWN ENOUGH TO SAVE US ...
... BUT MY ARM FEELS DISLOCATED!
BOOT-SHOD FEET TOUCH SOLID GROUND ... AND INSTANTS LATER ...
SHE'S ALL RIGHT ... JUST FAINTED FROM THE SHOCK!
AND, BY NOW, HER FURRY ATTACKER HAS CERTAINLY FLED ...
... ALL OF WHICH LEAVES ME WHERE?
THAT HAIRY CHARACTER MAY HAVE ESCAPED ME THIS TIME ... BUT I LAY ODDS WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
THERE'S MORE TO THAT MANIAC THAN MEETS THE EYE!
4

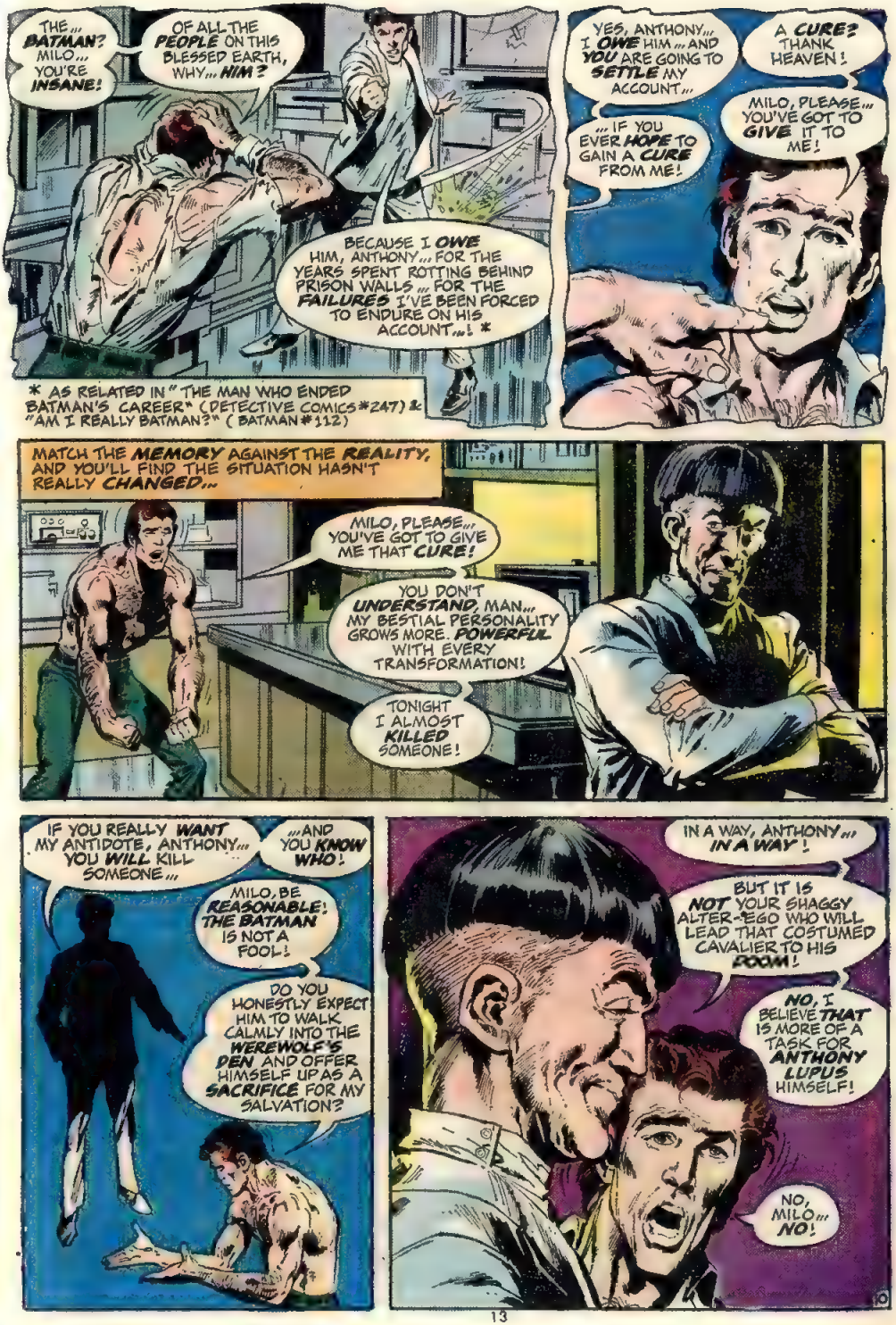

FORTY-SIX MINUTES LATER, HALF-WAY ACROSS GOTHAM, THE HARSH GLARE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON'S DESK LAMP ILLUMINATES A FAMILIAR DARK-CLAD FORM...
BATMAN! GOOD LORD, MAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PUT THROUGH A CEMENT-MIXER!
NOTHING SO GRAPHIC, COMMISSIONER! JUST HAD A-- FALLING OUT WITH SOME LUNATIC SECOND-STORY MAN ACROSS TOWN!
AMAZING! AN EVERYDAY BURGLAR GIVING YOU PROBLEMS?
NOTHING "EVERYDAY" ABOUT HIM, SIR... UNLESS YOU KNOW A DOZEN OTHER GUYS WHO BREAK INTO APARTMENTS MASQUERADING AS A WOLF--!
W...WOLF?! YOU'RE...
NO... IT'S JUST TOO MUCH TO BE A COINCIDENCE!
WHAT IS, COMMISSIONER?
YOUR WOLF-MAN... REMINDED ME OF A THEFT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FROM THE GOTHAM PARK ZOO! IT SEEMS SOMEONE GOT AWAY WITH A PAIR OF... ALASKAN TIMBER WOLVES!
MAYBE I'M GETTING OLD... BUT MY COP'S INSTINCTS TELL ME THAT, IN SOME STRANGE FASHION, OUR TWO CASES ARE RELATED!
I AGREE, SIR... BUT A MORE FRIGHTENING THOUGHT HAS JUST OCCURRED TO ME...
WHAT IF OUR WOLF-LIKE PROWLER IS NOT WEARING A MASK?
5

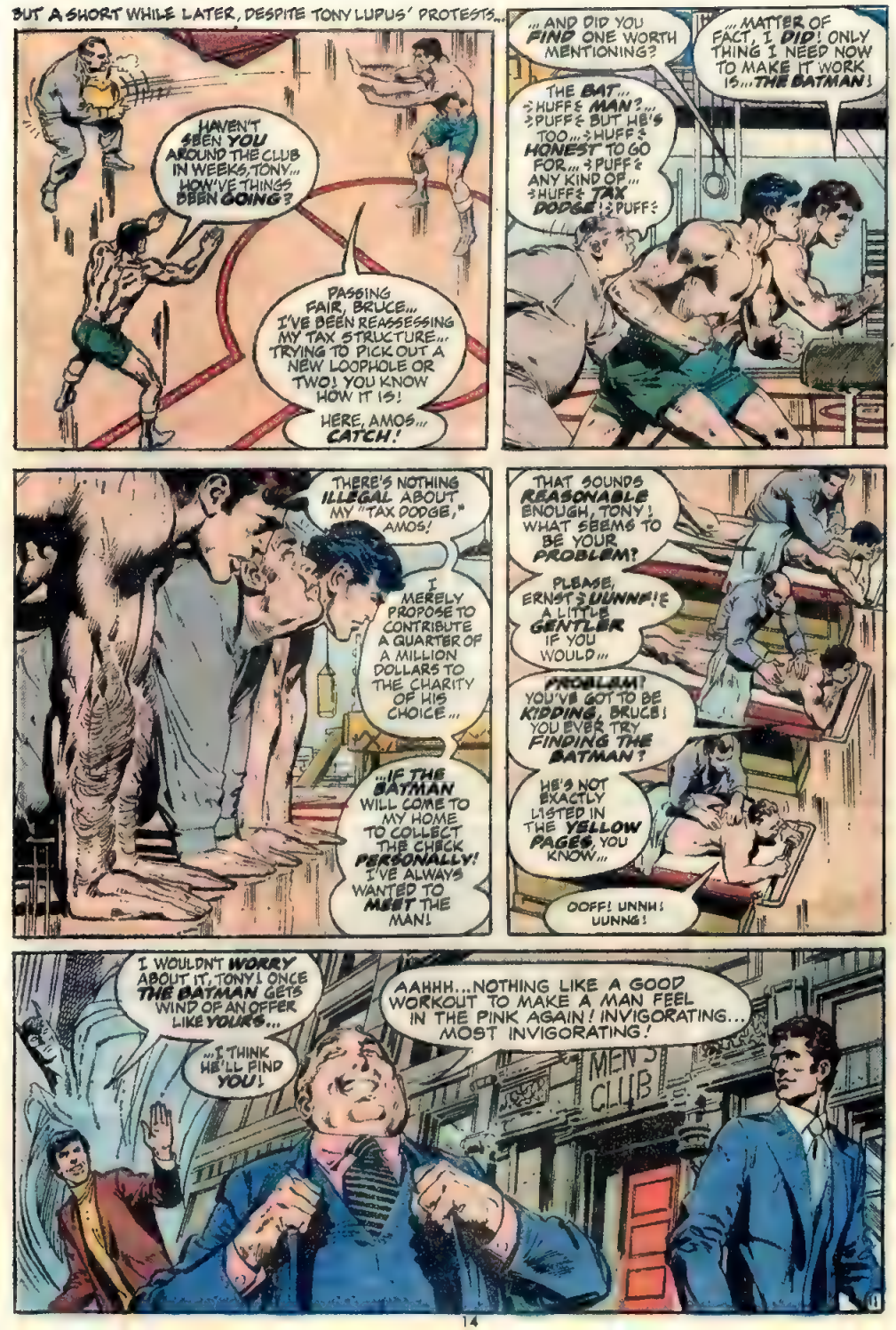
GOTHAM'S GRIMY LOWER-EAST SIDE ... WHERE LANDMARKS OF THE FUTURE RISE FROM THE RUBBLE OF THE PAST ...
IN THE FRAGILE MOMENTS BEFORE THE REBIRTH OF DAWN, A SOLITARY FIGURE LOPES THROUGH THE TWISTING SHADOWS ...
... THEN PAUSES BEFORE THE DIRT-STREAKED WINDOW OF A DIMLY-LIT PHARMACY AND ...
RREEEEEK
AH, MY FRIEND, YOU'VE RETURNED ...
... AND JUST UNDER THE WIRE!
COME ON ... DON'T BE SO MELODRAMATIC!
IN PRECISELY SEVEN SECONDS, THE MOON WILL BE DOWN ...
RRRRAAARRRGGHHHH
... AND ALL ...
... YOUR FEARSOME ...
... GROWLING WON'T ...
... MEAN A ...
... DAMNED THING!
6

THERE... NORMAL ONCE AGAIN! THAT'S MUCH BETTER... ISN'T IT, ANTHONY? CARE FOR A CUP OF TEA?
COME OFF IT, MILO! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I WANT FROM YOU... AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS!
A CURE, ANTHONY? OF COURSE... WHEN YOU'VE EARNED IT!
CURSE YOU, MILO... DON'T TAUNT ME! HAVEN'T I SUFFERED ENOUGH?
WHAT DID I EVER DO IN MY LIFE TO DESERVE THIS NIGHTMARE?
REALLY, ANTHONY... YOU KNOW THE ANSWER AS WELL AS I DO! THINK FOR A MOMENT... AND I'M CERTAIN IT WILL ALL COME BACK TO YOU!
MEMORY: YOU ARE ANTHONY LUPUS, OLYMPIC DECATHLON SENSATION OF A FEW YEARS PAST... WHO HAD DEVOTED HIS YOUTH TO ACHIEVING JUST SUCH A TRIUMPH...
AND, DESPITE THE YOUNG MAN'S MOST FERVENT WISHES, THE MEMORIES DO COME BACK, INDEED...
...FOR WITH ATHLETIC SUCCESS COMES FINANCIAL GOOD FORTUNE... AND ASSORTED OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS... JUST AS TONY LUPUS HAD KNOWN IT WOULD...
...AND, FOR A WHILE, HE WALLOWED IN THE LUXURY HE'D SCHEMED A LIFETIME TO ATTAIN... UNTIL THE HEADACHES BEGAN...
27

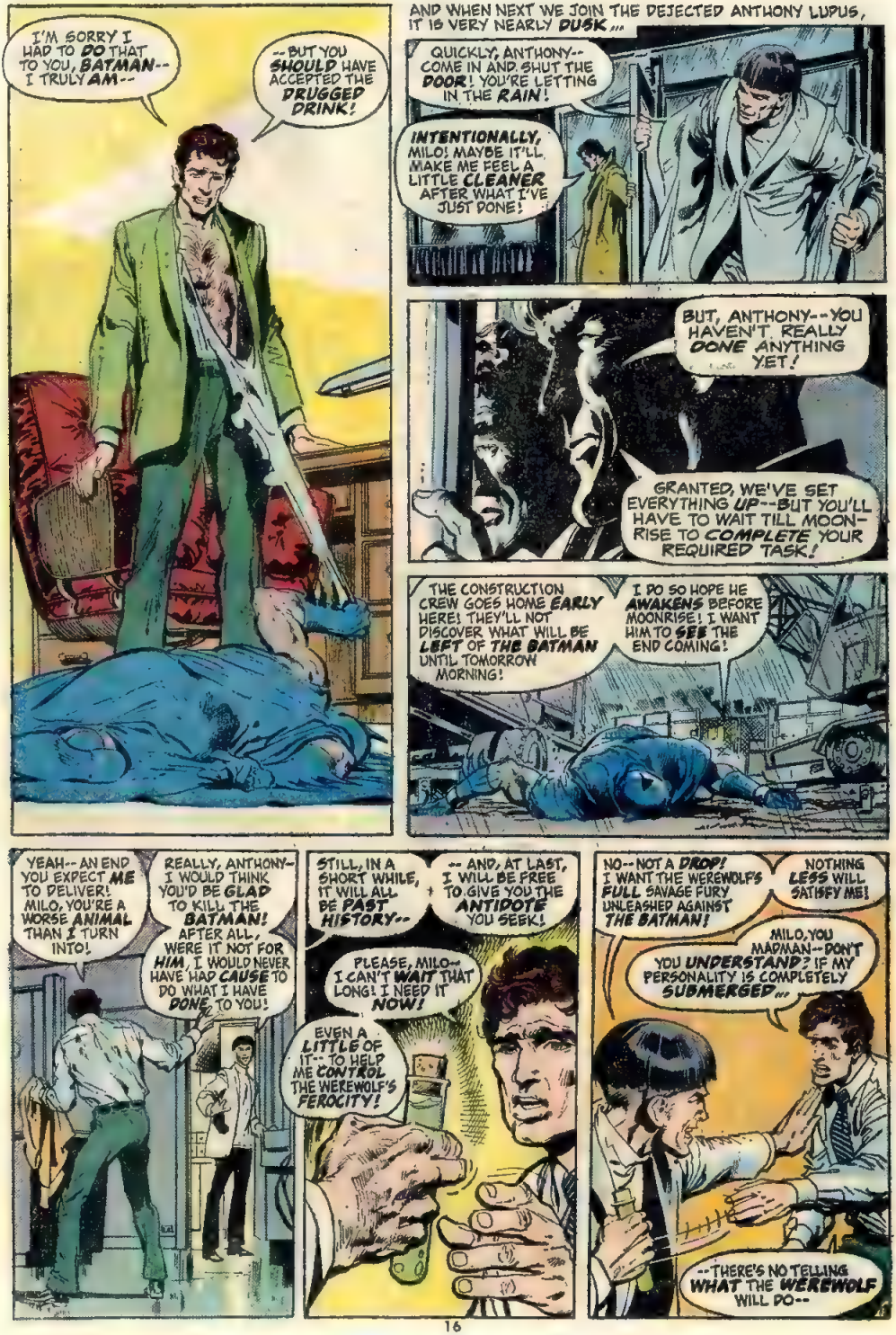
"THERE IS NO PHYSIOLOGICAL CAUSE FOR THESE HEADACHES," SAID ONE DOCTOR AFTER ANOTHER...
...BUT ANTHONY LUPUS WAS AN OBSTINATE MAN... AND THERE WERE MANY OTHER DOCTORS IN GOTHAM...
...AND WHEN, INEVITABLY, THERE WERE NO LONGER OTHER DOCTORS, THERE WERE, INSTEAD, THE HEALERS... THE MIRACLE MEN... THE QUACKS...
FINALLY, THERE WAS... MILO!
MILO'S POTIONS AND BREWS TASTED NO LESS FOUL THAN THOSE OF HIS PREDECESSORS...
...BUT THEY WERE INFINITELY MORE EFFECTIVE!
...FOR MILO'S MINISTRATIONS SOMEHOW RELIEVED ANTHONY LUPUS' CONSTANT AGONY, CLEARED HIS PAIN-WRACKED MIND...
...UNTIL, AT MONTH'S END, WHEN THE MOON ROSE FULL ONCE MORE...
...AND, IN HORROR, TONY LUPUS LEARNED THAT MILO'S ELIXIRS HAD MERELY EXCHANGED ONE KIND OF TORMENT FOR ANOTHER, FAR MORE HIDEOUS...

WHEN THE SUN ROSE AND THE TRANSFORMATION FADED INTO DREAM, THERE WERE ANSWERS TO BE FOUND...
MILO... YOUR SERUMS... THE MOON... TH-THEY CHANGED ME SOMEHOW... THEY...
IN HEAVEN'S NAME, MAN... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
REALLY, MR. LUPUS... NO NEED TO BE UPSET! IN FACT, YOU SHOULD BE PROUD!
YOU'RE ONE-IN-A MILLION, MR. LUPUS... ANTHONY! MY EXAMINATIONS HAVE SHOWN YOU SUFFER FROM QUITE A RARE DISEASE... LYCANTHROPY!
A CONDITION MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS... WEREWOLFISM!
OH, OTHER PEOPLE HAVE IT... THOSE WITH OVERLY-BUSHY EYEBROWS... PARTICULARLY HAIRY HANDS... BUT FEW HAVE AS INTENSE A CASE AS YOU!
YOUR HEADACHES BENEATH THE FULL MOON INDICATED THE DISEASE HAD GROWN STRONGER WITHIN YOU AS YOU REACHED MATURITY!
...AND THE SERUMS YOU CONSUMED... EXTRACTED BY ME FROM THE BLOOD OF ALASKAN TIMBER WOLVES... ACCELERATED THE PROCESS... BRINGING YOU TO THE FINAL STAGES FEW OTHERS EVER REACH...
...TURNING YOU, IN EFFECT, INTO A WEREWOLF!
BUT WHY, MILO... WHY??
WHY? BUT, ANTHONY... IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE!
I WANT YOU TO MURDER SOMEONE FOR ME!
I WANT YOU TO KILL... THE BATMAN!

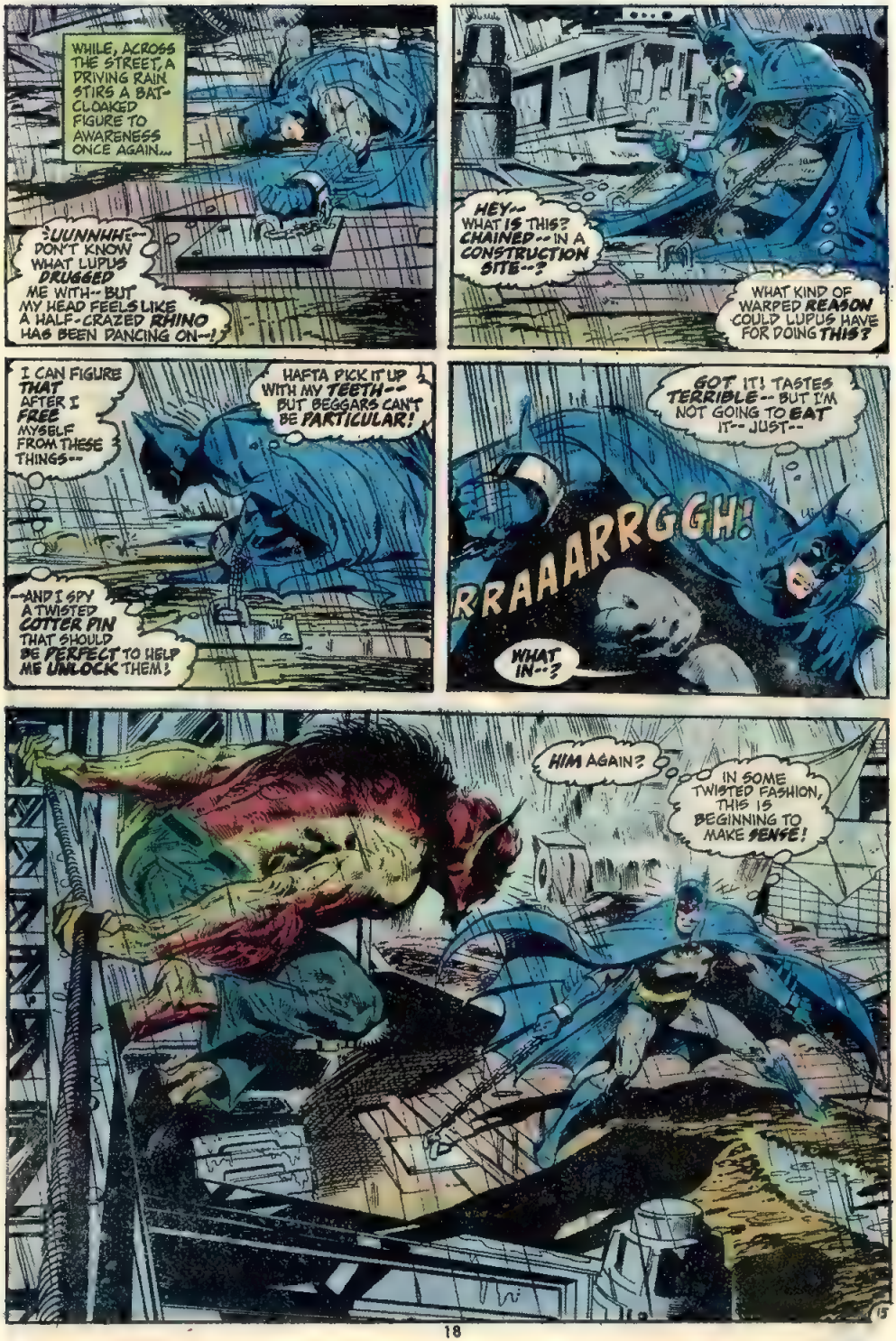

THE... BATMAN? MILO... YOU'RE INSANE!
OF ALL THE PEOPLE ON THIS BLESSED EARTH, WHY... HIM?
BECAUSE I OWE HIM, ANTHONY... FOR THE YEARS SPENT ROTTING BEHIND PRISON WALLS... FOR THE FAILURES I'VE BEEN FORCED TO ENDURE ON HIS ACCOUNT...! *
* AS RELATED IN "THE MAN WHO ENDED BATMAN'S CAREER" (DETECTIVE COMICS #247) & "AM I REALLY BATMAN?" (BATMAN #112)
YES, ANTHONY... I OWE HIM... AND YOU ARE GOING TO SETTLE MY ACCOUNT...
...IF YOU EVER HOPE TO GAIN A CURE FROM ME!
A CURE? THANK HEAVEN!
MILO, PLEASE... YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE IT TO ME!
MATCH THE MEMORY AGAINST THE REALITY, AND YOU'LL FIND THE SITUATION HASN'T REALLY CHANGED...
MILO, PLEASE... YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME THAT CURE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MAN... MY BESTIAL PERSONALITY GROWS MORE POWERFUL WITH EVERY TRANSFORMATION!
TONIGHT I ALMOST KILLED SOMEONE!
IF YOU REALLY WANT MY ANTIDOTE, ANTHONY... YOU WILL KILL SOMEONE...
...AND YOU KNOW WHO!
MILO, BE REASONABLE! THE BATMAN IS NOT A FOOL!
DO YOU HONESTLY EXPECT HIM TO WALK CALMLY INTO THE WEREWOLF'S DEN AND OFFER HIMSELF UP AS A SACRIFICE FOR MY SALVATION?
IN A WAY, ANTHONY... IN A WAY!
BUT IT IS NOT YOUR SHAGGY ALTER-EGO WHO WILL LEAD THAT COSTUMED CAVALIER TO HIS DOOM!
NO, I BELIEVE THAT IS MORE OF A TASK FOR ANTHONY LUPUS HIMSELF!
NO, MILO... NO!

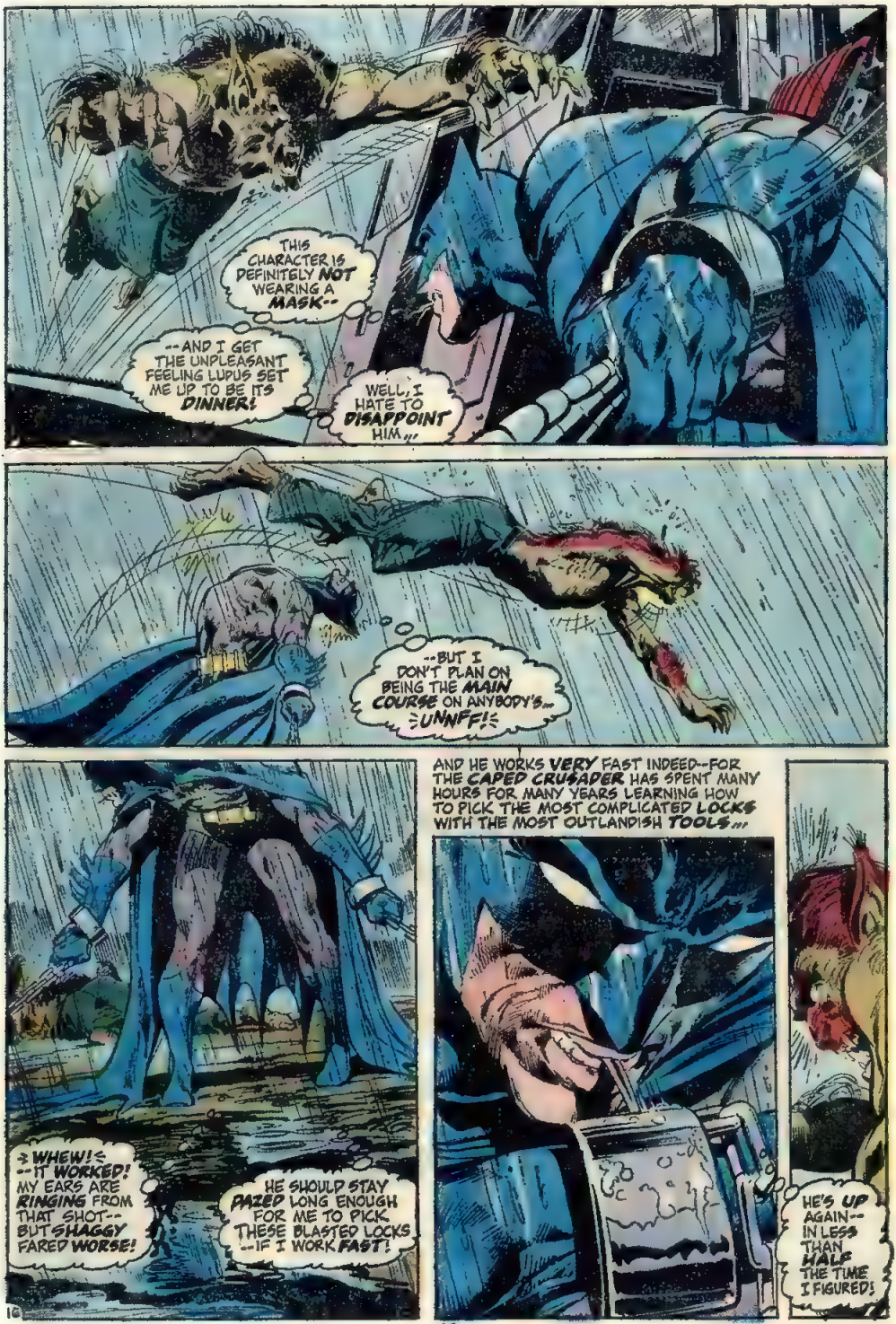

BUT A SHORT WHILE LATER, DESPITE TONY LUPUS' PROTESTS...
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND THE CLUB IN WEEKS, TONY... HOW'VE THINGS BEEN GOING?
PASSING FAIR, BRUCE... I'VE BEEN REASSESSING MY TAX STRUCTURE... TRYING TO PICK OUT A NEW LOOPHOLE OR TWO! YOU KNOW HOW IT IS!
HERE, AMOS... CATCH!
...AND DID YOU FIND ONE WORTH MENTIONING?
...MATTER OF FACT, I DID! ONLY THING I NEED NOW TO MAKE IT WORK IS...THE BATMAN!
THE BAT... ;HUFF; MAN?... ;PUFF; BUT HE'S TOO... ;HUFF; HONEST TO GO FOR... ;PUFF; ANY KIND OF... ;HUFF; TAX DODGE! ;PUFF;
THERE'S NOTHING ILLEGAL ABOUT MY "TAX DODGE," AMOS!
I MERELY PROPOSE TO CONTRIBUTE A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS TO THE CHARITY OF HIS CHOICE...
...IF THE BATMAN WILL COME TO MY HOME TO COLLECT THE CHECK PERSONALLY! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET THE MAN!
THAT SOUNDS REASONABLE ENOUGH, TONY! WHAT SEEMS TO BE YOUR PROBLEM?
PLEASE, ERNST ;UUNNF!; E A LITTLE GENTLER IF YOU WOULD...
PROBLEM? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, BRUCE! YOU EVER TRY FINDING THE BATMAN?
HE'S NOT EXACTLY LISTED IN THE YELLOW PAGES, YOU KNOW...
OOFF! UNNH! UUNNG!
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT, TONY! ONCE THE BATMAN GETS WIND OF AN OFFER LIKE YOURS...
...I THINK HE'LL FIND YOU!
AAHHH...NOTHING LIKE A GOOD WORKOUT TO MAKE A MAN FEEL IN THE PINK AGAIN! INVIGORATING... MOST INVIGORATING!
MEN'S CLUB

AND NOT TOO MUCH LATER...
WHO--? THE--B-BATMAN!
AFTERNOON, MR. LUPUS! I HEAR YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR ME!
OH, YES--THAT! PLEASE JOIN ME IN MY STUDY AND I'LL WRITE YOU A CHECK!
THERE, NOW, AS LONG AS THIS DOOR IS CLOSED, WE WON'T BE DISTURBED!
WOULD YOU CARE FOR A DRINK, BATMAN?
NO--THANK YOU! I SUPPOSE WE JUST ATTEND TO THE REASON I'M HERE:
YES, OF COURSE--MY CONTRIBUTION!
I WANT YOU TO KNOW, BATMAN, THAT I MAKE YOU THIS GIFT NOT ONLY TO ALLEVIATE MY FINANCIAL SITUATION--
--BUT IN THE SPIRIT OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD THAT MAKES ALL MEN--
IS IT GETTING--HOT IN HERE?
HOT? WHY, NO--I DON'T BELIEVE SO, BATMAN!
NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, THIS CONTRIBUTION IS MADE IN THE NAME OF...
IT IS HOT--GETTING HOTTER! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH--THE AIR IN THIS ROOM! IT'S--OF COURSE!
THIS ROOM--NO WINDOWS--DOOR SEALED SHUT--IS FILLED WITH GAS!
DON'T KNOW WHY--YOU SET UP TRAP FOR ME--BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO...
--NOT GOING TO--MAKE IT...
12

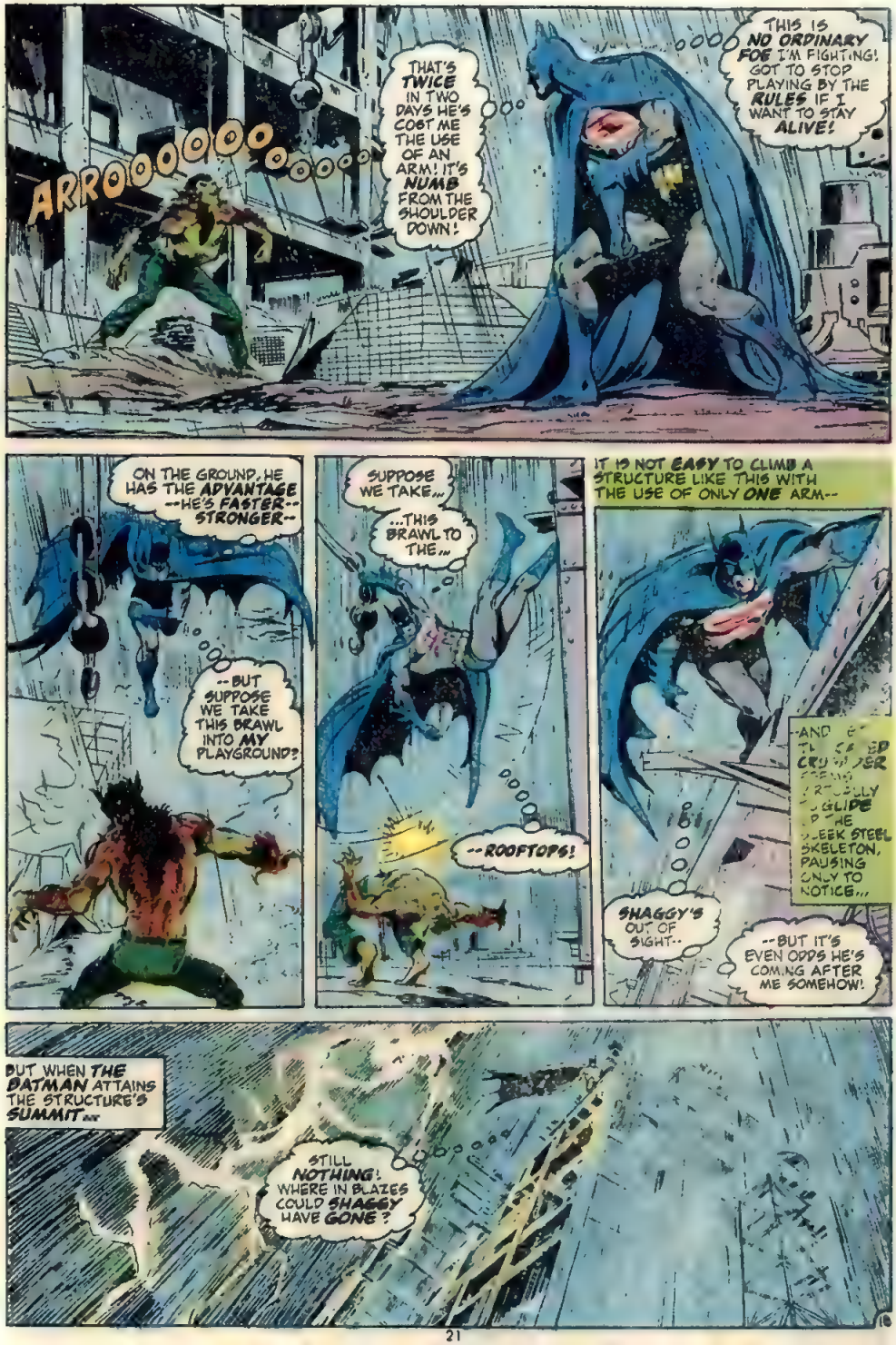

I'M SORRY I HAD TO DO THAT TO YOU, BATMAN-- I TRULY AM--
--BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE DRUGGED DRINK!
AND WHEN NEXT WE JOIN THE DEJECTED ANTHONY LUPUS, IT IS VERY NEARLY DUSK...
QUICKLY, ANTHONY-- COME IN AND SHUT THE DOOR! YOU'RE LETTING IN THE RAIN!
INTENTIONALLY, MILO! MAYBE IT'LL MAKE ME FEEL A LITTLE CLEANER AFTER WHAT I'VE JUST DONE!
BUT, ANTHONY--YOU HAVEN'T REALLY DONE ANYTHING YET!
GRANTED, WE'VE SET EVERYTHING UP--BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL MOON-RISE TO COMPLETE YOUR REQUIRED TASK!
THE CONSTRUCTION CREW GOES HOME EARLY HERE! THEY'LL NOT DISCOVER WHAT WILL BE LEFT OF THE BATMAN UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING!
I DO SO HOPE HE AWAKENS BEFORE MOONRISE! I WANT HIM TO SEE THE END COMING!
YEAH--AN END YOU EXPECT ME TO DELIVER! MILO, YOU'RE A WORSE ANIMAL THAN I TURN INTO!
REALLY, ANTHONY-- I WOULD THINK YOU'D BE GLAD TO KILL THE BATMAN! AFTER ALL, WERE IT NOT FOR HIM, I WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD CAUSE TO DO WHAT I HAVE DONE TO YOU!
STILL, IN A SHORT WHILE, IT WILL ALL BE PAST HISTORY--
-- AND, AT LAST, I WILL BE FREE TO GIVE YOU THE ANTIDOTE YOU SEEK!
PLEASE, MILO-- I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG! I NEED IT NOW!
EVEN A LITTLE OF IT-- TO HELP ME CONTROL THE WEREWOLF'S FEROCITY!
NO--NOT A DROP! I WANT THE WEREWOLF'S FULL SAVAGE FURY UNLEASHED AGAINST THE BATMAN!
NOTHING LESS WILL SATISFY ME!
MILO, YOU MADMAN--DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? IF MY PERSONALITY IS COMPLETELY SUBMERGED...
--THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THE WEREWOLF WILL DO--

--BUT I'M AFRAID--
--WE'RE GOING TO--
--FIND OUT! IT'S--
--TOO LATE!--
--MUCH TOO--
RRRAARRGGG!
GO ON, ANTHONY-- YOUR VICTIM AWAITS YOU IN THE DESERTED LOT ACROSS THE STREET! GO ON AND KILL HIM-- KILL--!
A-ANTHONY-- WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY?
A SUDDEN SHIVER SCAMPERS UP MILO'S SPINE AS HE STARES INTO THE TRANSFORMED TONY LUPUS' BLAZING, FERAL EYES-- AND HE REALIZES HE HAS MADE A MOST DREADFUL MISTAKE!
NO, ANTHONY-- STAY BACK! STAY BACK!
H-HERE-- Y-YOU CAN HAVE THE ANTIDOTE. I GIVE IT TO YOU GLADLY--
--B-BUT DON'T TOUCH ME-- PLEASE-- DON'T TOUCH--
--MEEEAAARRGGH!


WHILE, ACROSS THE STREET, A DRIVING RAIN STIRS A BAT-CLOAKED FIGURE TO AWARENESS ONCE AGAIN...
:UUNNHH-- DON'T KNOW WHAT LUPUS DRUGGED ME WITH-- BUT MY HEAD FEELS LIKE A HALF-CRAZED RHINO HAS BEEN DANCING ON--!
HEY-- WHAT IS THIS? CHAINED-- IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE--?
WHAT KIND OF WARPED REASON COULD LUPUS HAVE FOR DOING THIS?
I CAN FIGURE THAT AFTER I FREE MYSELF FROM THESE THINGS--
HAFTA PICK IT UP WITH MY TEETH-- BUT BEGGARS CAN'T BE PARTICULAR!
--AND I SPY A TWISTED COTTER PIN THAT SHOULD BE PERFECT TO HELP ME UNLOCK THEM!
GOT IT! TASTES TERRIBLE-- BUT I'M NOT GOING TO EAT IT-- JUST--
RRAAARRGGH!
WHAT IN--?
HIM AGAIN?
IN SOME TWISTED FASHION, THIS IS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE!
15


THIS CHARACTER IS DEFINITELY NOT WEARING A MASK--
--AND I GET THE UNPLEASANT FEELING LUPUS SET ME UP TO BE ITS DINNER!
WELL, I HATE TO DISAPPOINT HIM...
--BUT I DON'T PLAN ON BEING THE MAIN COURSE ON ANYBODY'S...
=UNNFF!=
=WHEW!= --IT WORKED! MY EARS ARE RINGING FROM THAT SHOT-- BUT SHAGGY FARED WORSE!
HE SHOULD STAY DAZED LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO PICK THESE BLASTED LOCKS --IF I WORK FAST!
AND HE WORKS VERY FAST INDEED--FOR THE CAPED CRUSADER HAS SPENT MANY HOURS FOR MANY YEARS LEARNING HOW TO PICK THE MOST COMPLICATED LOCKS WITH THE MOST OUTLANDISH TOOLS...
HE'S UP AGAIN-- IN LESS THAN HALF THE TIME I FIGURED!

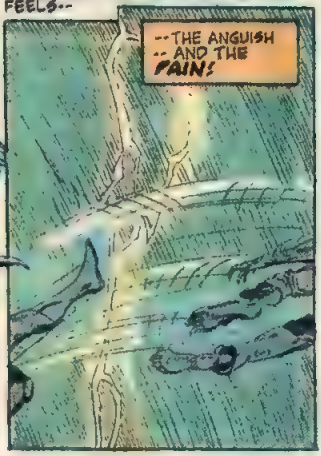
--WHICH IS STILL TWO SECONDS LONGER THAN IT TOOK ME TO FREE MYSELF--
--AND MOVE!
DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT CREATURE IS-- WHERE IT COMES FROM-- BUT ITS ENDURANCE LEVEL IS UNNATURAL!
EITHER OF THE BLOWS I'VE DEALT IT WOULD PUT A NORMAL MAN OUT FOR HOURS!
THE BATMAN'S STIFF-FINGERED HAND MOVES WITH BLINDING SPEED...
BUT IF SHAGGY'S GONNA KEEP ON COMING, I'M GONNA KEEP ON SLUGGING--
-- AND A WELL-PLACED KARATE CHOP TO THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD SHOULD...
--BUT A FUR-COVERED CLAW MOVES FASTER!
AARGH-- HIS GRIP-- LIKE STEEL! CAN'T MOVE MY ARM--
--AND HIS FREE HAND WILL TEAR ME APART!
HITTING HIM WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT--
--AND THE ONLY THING I'VE SUCCEEDED IN DOING IS...
--MAKING HIM MAD!
UUNNGGH-- M-- MY ARM!
17


ARROOOOOOOOOOOO
THAT'S TWICE IN TWO DAYS HE'S COST ME THE USE OF AN ARM! IT'S NUMB FROM THE SHOULDER DOWN!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY FOE I'M FIGHTING! GOT TO STOP PLAYING BY THE RULES IF I WANT TO STAY ALIVE!
ON THE GROUND, HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE --HE'S FASTER-- STRONGER--
--BUT SUPPOSE WE TAKE THIS BRAWL INTO MY PLAYGROUND?
SUPPOSE WE TAKE...
...THIS BRAWL TO THE...
--ROOFTOPS!
IT IS NOT EASY TO CLIMB A STRUCTURE LIKE THIS WITH THE USE OF ONLY ONE ARM--
--AND
--BUT IT'S EVEN ODDS HE'S COMING AFTER ME SOMEHOW!
SHAGGY'S OUT OF SIGHT--
BUT WHEN THE BATMAN ATTAINS THE STRUCTURE'S SUMMIT...
STILL NOTHING! WHERE IN BLAZES COULD SHAGGY HAVE GONE?

RRR
RRRR
UH-OH-- I'M SORRY I ASKED!
HE'S SMARTER THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR! CLIMBED UP THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING-- TRIED TO TAKE ME BY SURPRISE--
--AND HE MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED-- IF HE'D KEPT HIS STUPID MOUTH SHUT!

BUT EVEN AS HE WHIRLS TO MEET THE ATTACK, THE BATMAN FALLS BENEATH ITS FULL SAVAGE FURY-- FURY BORN FROM THE BEAST'S SUBCONSCIOUS-- AND THE MANGLED MEMORY THAT THE CAPED ONE IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTHONY LUPUS' CURRENT CONDITION...

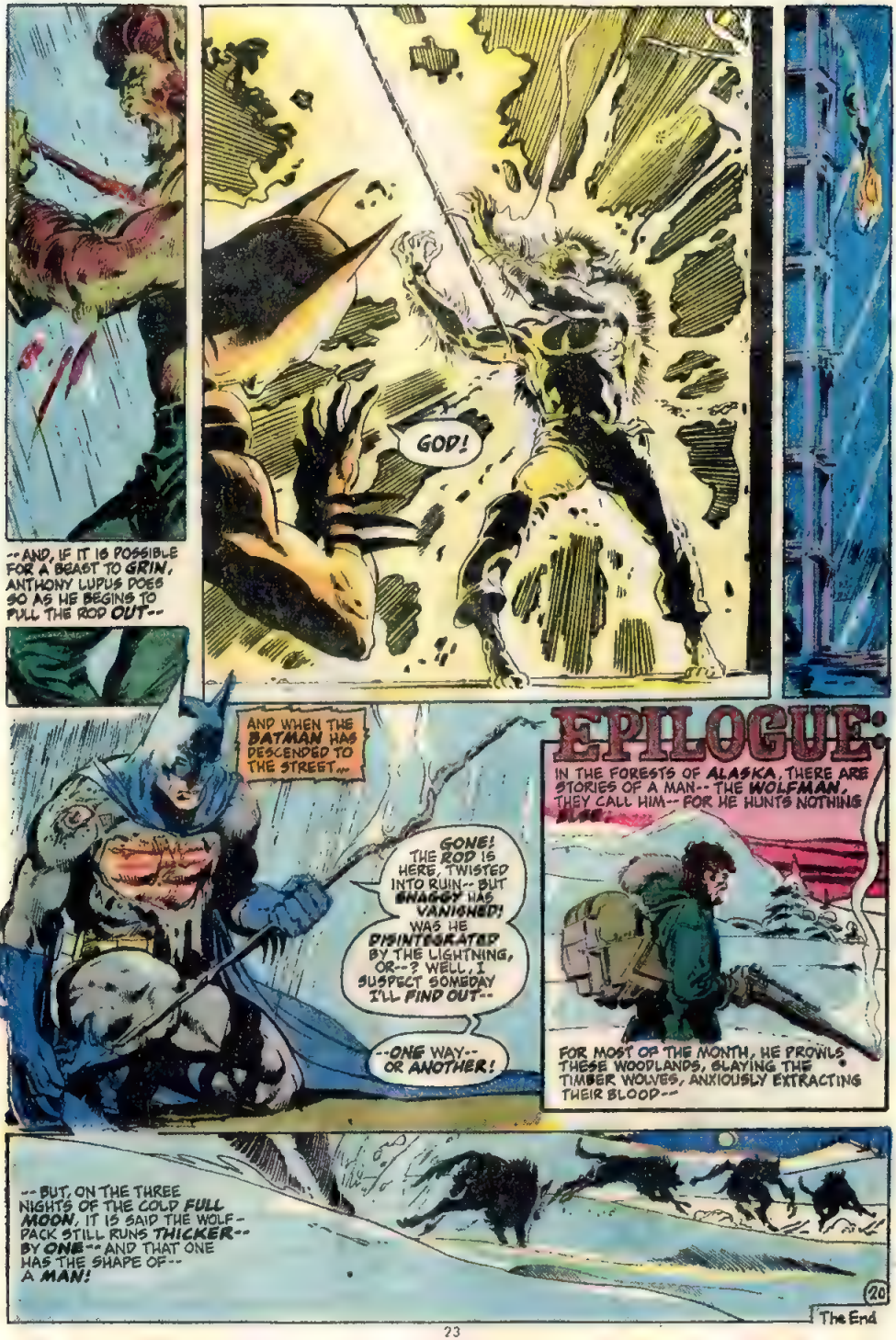
--RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BITTER ANGUISH THE SHAGGY CREATURE FEELS--



JUST ABOUT HAD IT! SHAGGY'S COMING AGAIN-- AND I HAVEN'T GOT THE STRENGTH TO STOP HIM-- UNLESS...
IT MAY BE BRUTAL -- BUT IT'S THE ONLY HOPE I'VE GOT!
AARRNN!

ONCE MORE, THE BEAST THAT IS ANTHONY LUPUS HURLS HIMSELF FORWARD-- ONLY TO BE STOPPED SUDDENLY, SICKENINGLY SHORT BY ANOTHER OBJECT HURLED...

THEN, SLOWLY, HE BEGINS TO REALIZE THAT HE FEELS NO WEAKNESS, NO PAIN-- THAT THE SHARP STEEL ROD WHICH PIERCED HIS FURRY FLESH HAS AFFECTED HIM NOT AT ALL--


--AND, IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A BEAST TO GRIN, ANTHONY LUPUS DOES SO AS HE BEGINS TO PULL THE ROD OUT--
GOD!
AND WHEN THE BATMAN HAS DESCENDED TO THE STREET...
GONE! THE ROD IS HERE, TWISTED INTO RUIN-- BUT SHAGGY HAS VANISHED! WAS HE DISINTEGRATED BY THE LIGHTNING, OR--? WELL, I SUSPECT SOMEDAY I'LL FIND OUT--
--ONE WAY-- OR ANOTHER!
EPILOGUE:
IN THE FORESTS OF ALASKA, THERE ARE STORIES OF A MAN-- THE WOLFMAN, THEY CALL HIM-- FOR HE HUNTS NOTHING
FOR MOST OF THE MONTH, HE PROWLS THESE WOODLANDS, SLAYING THE TIMBER WOLVES, ANXIOUSLY EXTRACTING THEIR BLOOD--
--BUT, ON THE THREE NIGHTS OF THE COLD FULL MOON, IT IS SAID THE WOLF-PACK STILL RUNS THICKER-- BY ONE-- AND THAT ONE HAS THE SHAPE OF-- A MAN!
20
The End

The Simple Advice That Changed Bob's Body... and his Entire Life!

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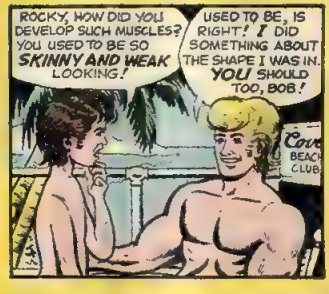
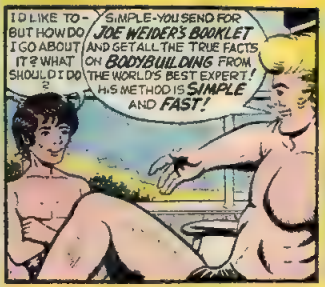
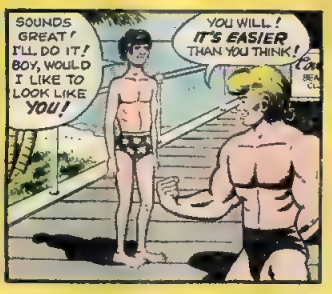
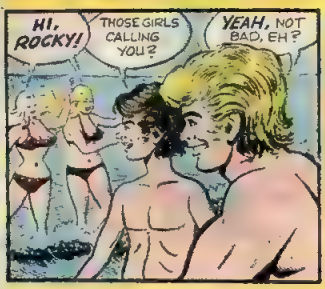
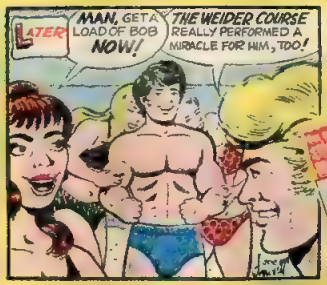

ROCKY, HOW DID YOU DEVELOP SUCH MUSCLES? YOU USED TO BE SO SKINNY AND WEAK LOOKING!
USED TO BE, IS RIGHT! I DID SOMETHING ABOUT THE SHAPE I WAS IN. YOU SHOULD TOO, BOB!
Cor BEACH CLUB


I'D LIKE TO - BUT HOW DO I GO ABOUT IT? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SIMPLE - YOU SEND FOR JOE WEIDER'S BOOKLET AND GET ALL THE TRUE FACTS ON BODYBUILDING FROM THE WORLD'S BEST EXPERT! HIS METHOD IS SIMPLE AND FAST!







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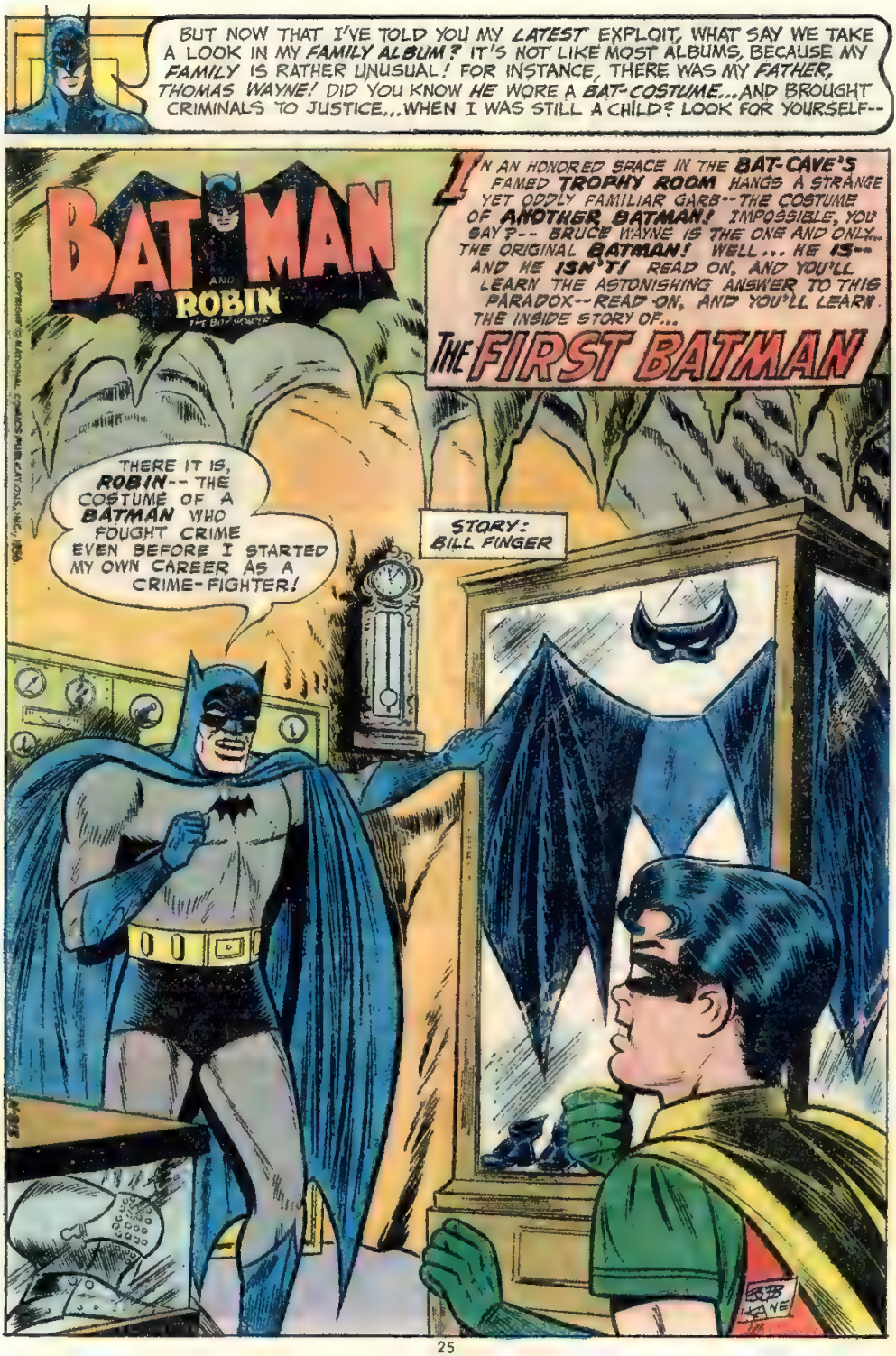
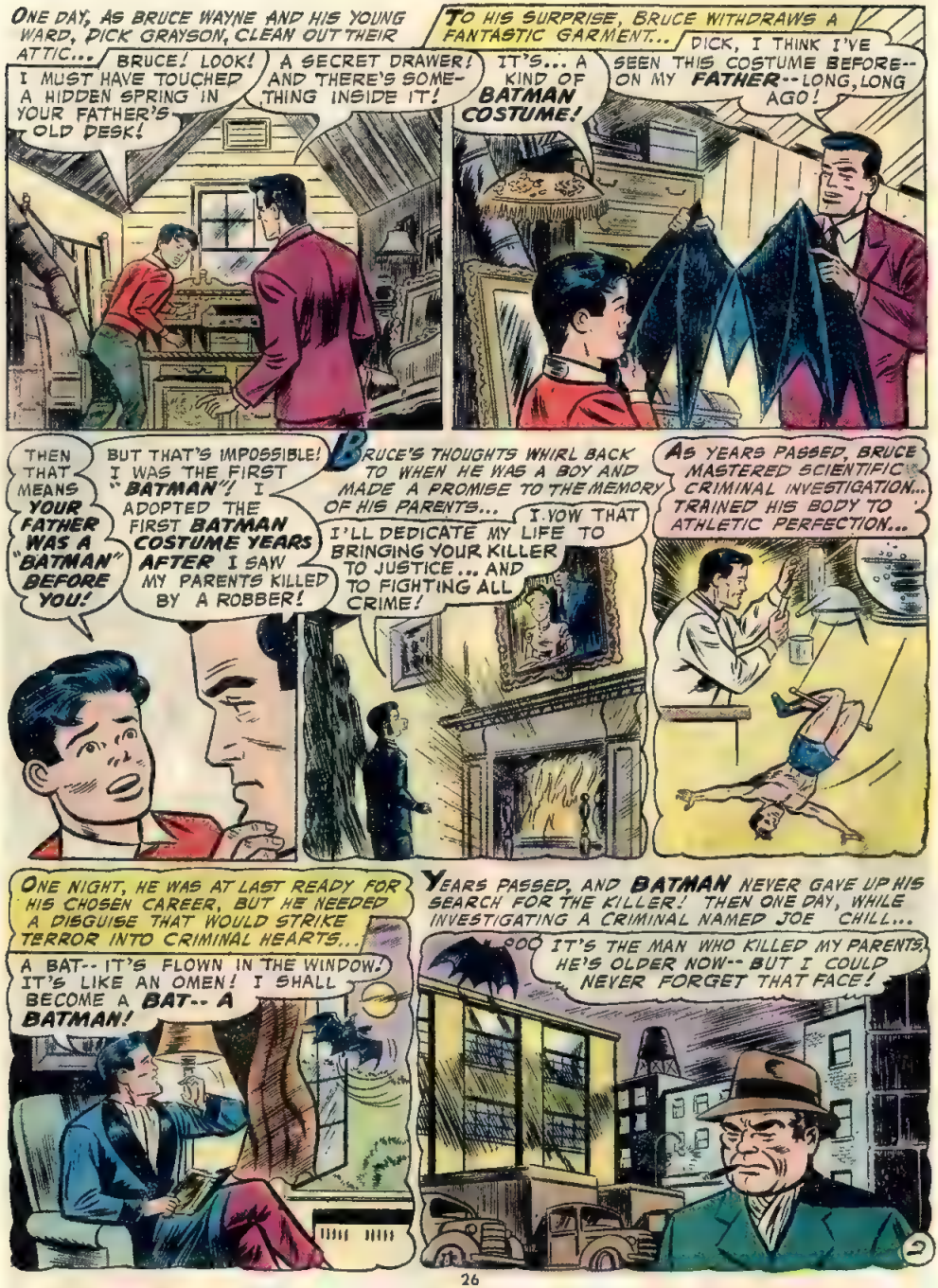
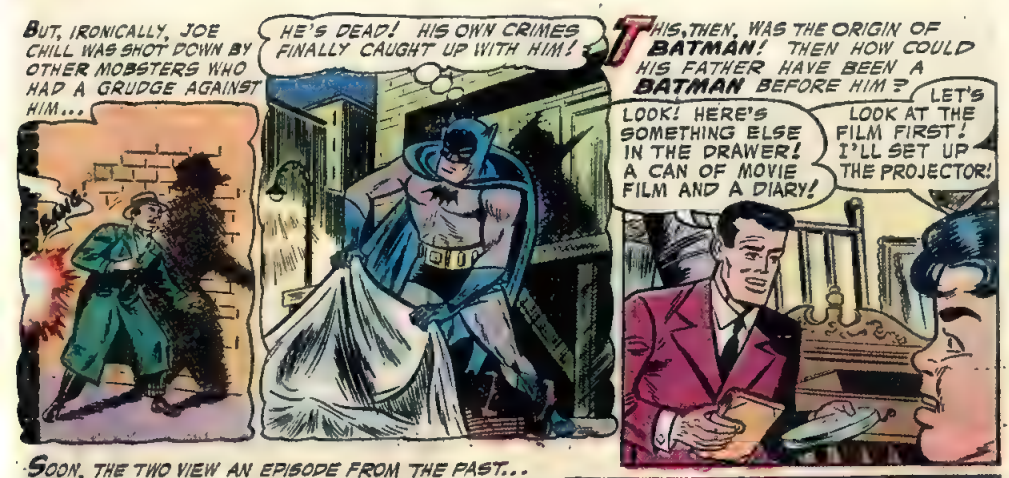
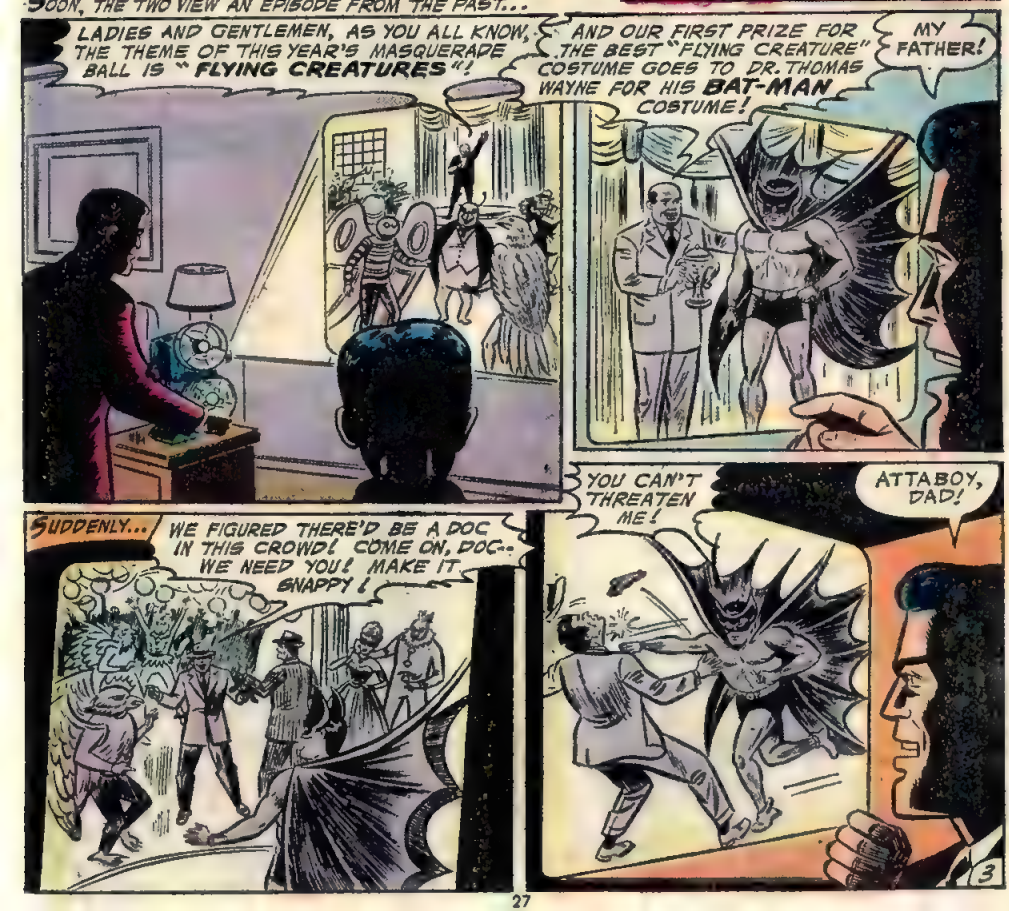
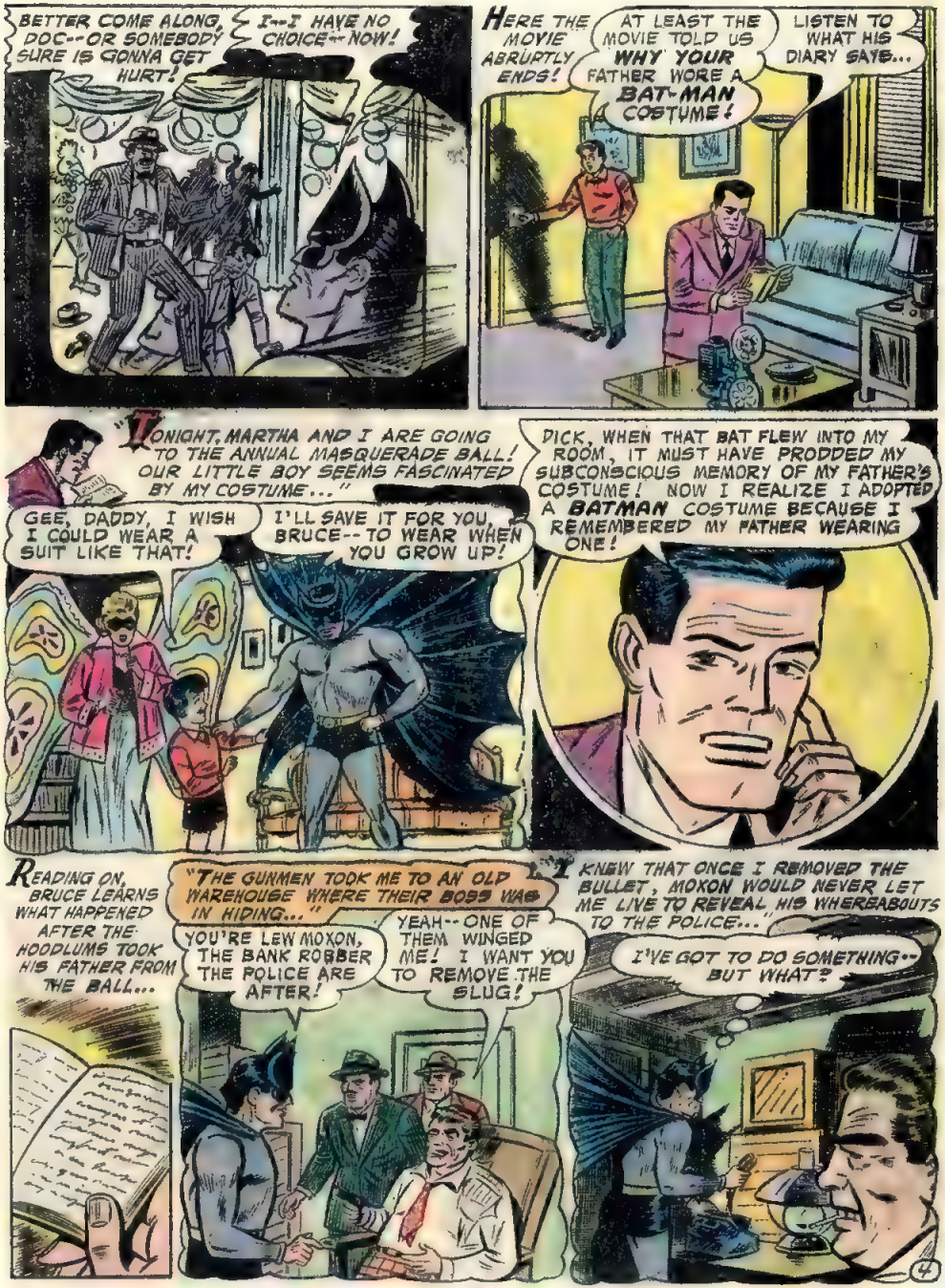

BUT NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU MY LATEST EXPLOIT, WHAT SAY WE TAKE A LOOK IN MY FAMILY ALBUM? IT'S NOT LIKE MOST ALBUMS, BECAUSE MY FAMILY IS RATHER UNUSUAL! FOR INSTANCE, THERE WAS MY FATHER, THOMAS WAYNE! DID YOU KNOW HE WORE A BAT-COSTUME...AND BROUGHT CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE...WHEN I WAS STILL A CHILD? LOOK FOR YOURSELF--
BATMAN AND ROBIN
IN AN HONORED SPACE IN THE BAT-CAVE'S FAMED TROPHY ROOM HANGS A STRANGE YET ODDLY FAMILIAR GARB--THE COSTUME OF ANOTHER BATMAN! IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY?-- BRUCE WAYNE IS THE ONE AND ONLY... THE ORIGINAL BATMAN! WELL... HE IS-- AND HE ISN'T! READ ON, AND YOU'LL LEARN THE ASTONISHING ANSWER TO THIS PARADOX--READ ON, AND YOU'LL LEARN THE INSIDE STORY OF...
THE FIRST BATMAN
THERE IT IS, ROBIN-- THE COSTUME OF A BATMAN WHO FOUGHT CRIME EVEN BEFORE I STARTED MY OWN CAREER AS A CRIME-FIGHTER!
STORY: BILL FINGER
BOB KANE


ONE DAY, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, CLEAN OUT THEIR ATTIC...
BRUCE! LOOK! I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A HIDDEN SPRING IN YOUR FATHER'S OLD DESK!
A SECRET DRAWER! AND THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT!
TO HIS SURPRISE, BRUCE WITHDRAWS A FANTASTIC GARMENT...
IT'S... A KIND OF BATMAN COSTUME!
DICK, I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS COSTUME BEFORE-- ON MY FATHER--LONG, LONG AGO!
THEN THAT MEANS YOUR FATHER WAS A "BATMAN" BEFORE YOU!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS THE FIRST "BATMAN"! I ADOPTED THE FIRST BATMAN COSTUME YEARS AFTER I SAW MY PARENTS KILLED BY A ROBBER!
BRUCE'S THOUGHTS WHIRL BACK TO WHEN HE WAS A BOY AND MADE A PROMISE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS...
I VOW THAT I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO BRINGING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND TO FIGHTING ALL CRIME!
AS YEARS PASSED, BRUCE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION... TRAINED HIS BODY TO ATHLETIC PERFECTION...
ONE NIGHT, HE WAS AT LAST READY FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER, BUT HE NEEDED A DISGUISE THAT WOULD STRIKE TERROR INTO CRIMINAL HEARTS...
A BAT-- IT'S FLOWN IN THE WINDOW! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT-- A BATMAN!
YEARS PASSED, AND BATMAN NEVER GAVE UP HIS SEARCH FOR THE KILLER! THEN ONE DAY, WHILE INVESTIGATING A CRIMINAL NAMED JOE CHILL...
OOO IT'S THE MAN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS, HE'S OLDER NOW-- BUT I COULD NEVER FORGET THAT FACE!

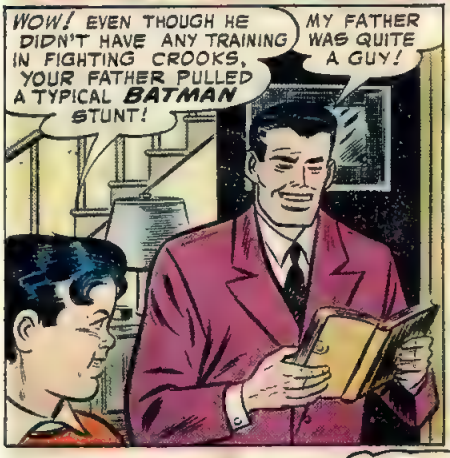

BUT, IRONICALLY, JOE CHILL WAS SHOT DOWN BY OTHER MOBSTERS WHO HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM...
BLAM!
HE'S DEAD! HIS OWN CRIMES FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM!
THIS, THEN, WAS THE ORIGIN OF BATMAN! THEN HOW COULD HIS FATHER HAVE BEEN A BATMAN BEFORE HIM?
LOOK! HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DRAWER! A CAN OF MOVIE FILM AND A DIARY!
LET'S LOOK AT THE FILM FIRST! I'LL SET UP THE PROJECTOR!


SOON, THE TWO VIEW AN EPISODE FROM THE PAST...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL IS "FLYING CREATURES"!
AND OUR FIRST PRIZE FOR THE BEST "FLYING CREATURE" COSTUME GOES TO DR. THOMAS WAYNE FOR HIS BAT-MAN COSTUME!
MY FATHER!
SUDDENLY...
WE FIGURED THERE'D BE A DOC IN THIS CROWD! COME ON, DOC... WE NEED YOU! MAKE IT SNAPPY!
YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME!
ATTABOY, DAD!
3


BETTER COME ALONG, DOC--OR SOMEBODY SURE IS GONNA GET HURT!
I--I HAVE NO CHOICE--NOW!
HERE THE MOVIE ABRUPTLY ENDS!
AT LEAST THE MOVIE TOLD US WHY YOUR FATHER WORE A BAT-MAN COSTUME!
LISTEN TO WHAT HIS DIARY SAYS...
"TONIGHT, MARTHA AND I ARE GOING TO THE ANNUAL MASQUERADE BALL! OUR LITTLE BOY SEEMS FASCINATED BY MY COSTUME..."
GEE, DADDY, I WISH I COULD WEAR A SUIT LIKE THAT!
I'LL SAVE IT FOR YOU, BRUCE--TO WEAR WHEN YOU GROW UP!
DICK, WHEN THAT BAT FLEW INTO MY ROOM, IT MUST HAVE PRODDED MY SUBCONSCIOUS MEMORY OF MY FATHER'S COSTUME! NOW I REALIZE I ADOPTED A BATMAN COSTUME BECAUSE I REMEMBERED MY FATHER WEARING ONE!
READING ON, BRUCE LEARNS WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE HOODLUMS TOOK HIS FATHER FROM THE BALL...
"THE GUNMEN TOOK ME TO AN OLD WAREHOUSE WHERE THEIR BOSS WAS IN HIDING..."
YOU'RE LEW MOXON, THE BANK ROBBER THE POLICE ARE AFTER!
YEAH--ONE OF THEM WINGED ME! I WANT YOU TO REMOVE THE SLUG!
"I KNEW THAT ONCE I REMOVED THE BULLET, MOXON WOULD NEVER LET ME LIVE TO REVEAL HIS WHEREABOUTS TO THE POLICE..."
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--BUT WHAT?
4

"I SUDDENLY HOOKED ONE FOOT AROUND MOXON'S CHAIR AND..."
WHAT...?!

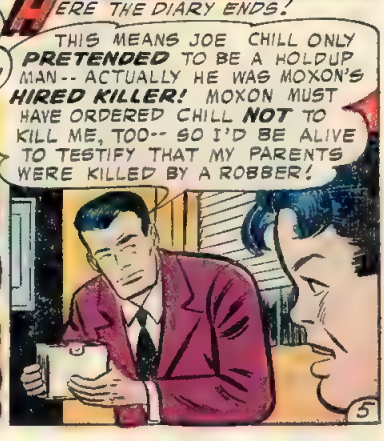
"THAT LEFT ONLY TWO HOODLUMS TO DEAL WITH!"
I'LL LET THE POLICE TAKE OVER FROM HERE!

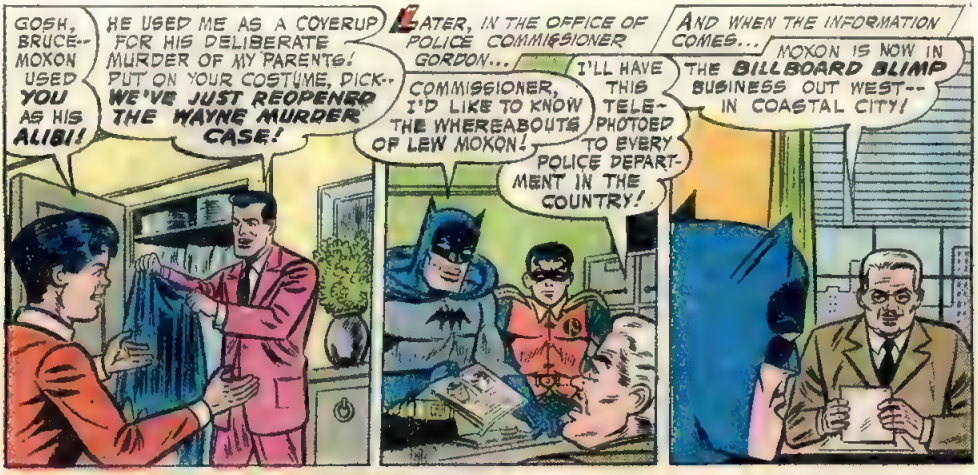

WOW! EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TRAINING IN FIGHTING CROOKS, YOUR FATHER PULLED A TYPICAL BATMAN STUNT!
MY FATHER WAS QUITE A GUY!

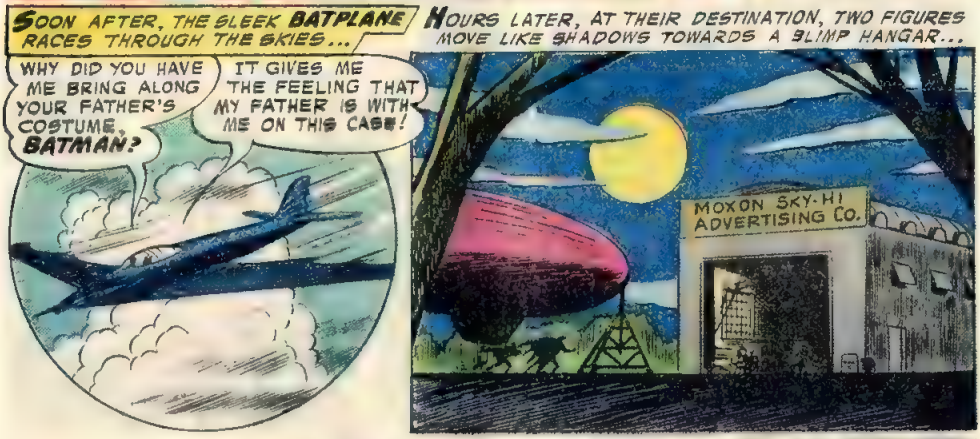
THE DIARY CONTINUES--"AT HIS TRIAL, MOXON WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY..."
YOU DID THIS TO ME! I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, WAYNE-- I'LL GET YOU!

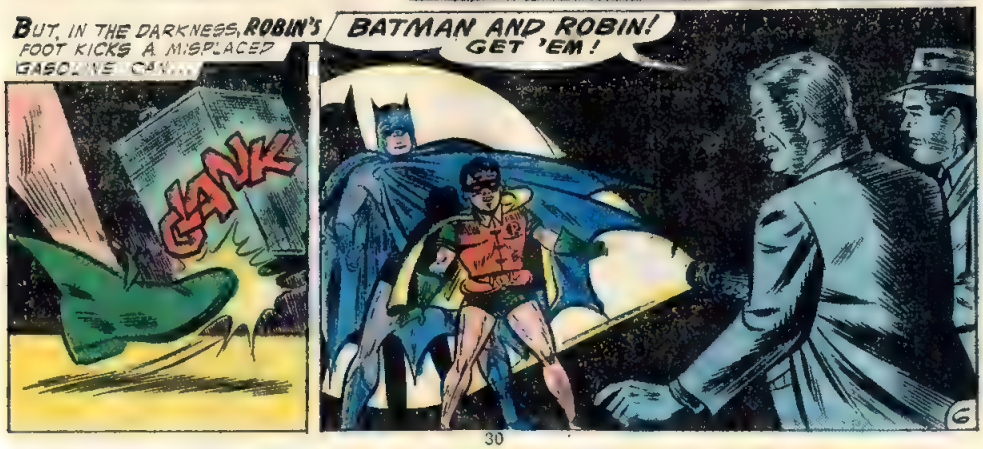
"TEN YEARS ROLLED BY! I'D INVESTED MY SAVINGS WISELY AND BECAME WEALTHY! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN MOXON UNTIL TODAY..."
MOXON-- FREE!
YEAH--I SERVED MY TEN YEARS IN JAIL-- WHERE YOU PUT ME! I SWORE I'D GET YOU, AND I WILL!

BUT I'M TOO SMART TO DO IT MYSELF! THE POLICE WOULD ARREST ME ON SUSPICION FAST! I'LL GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR ME!

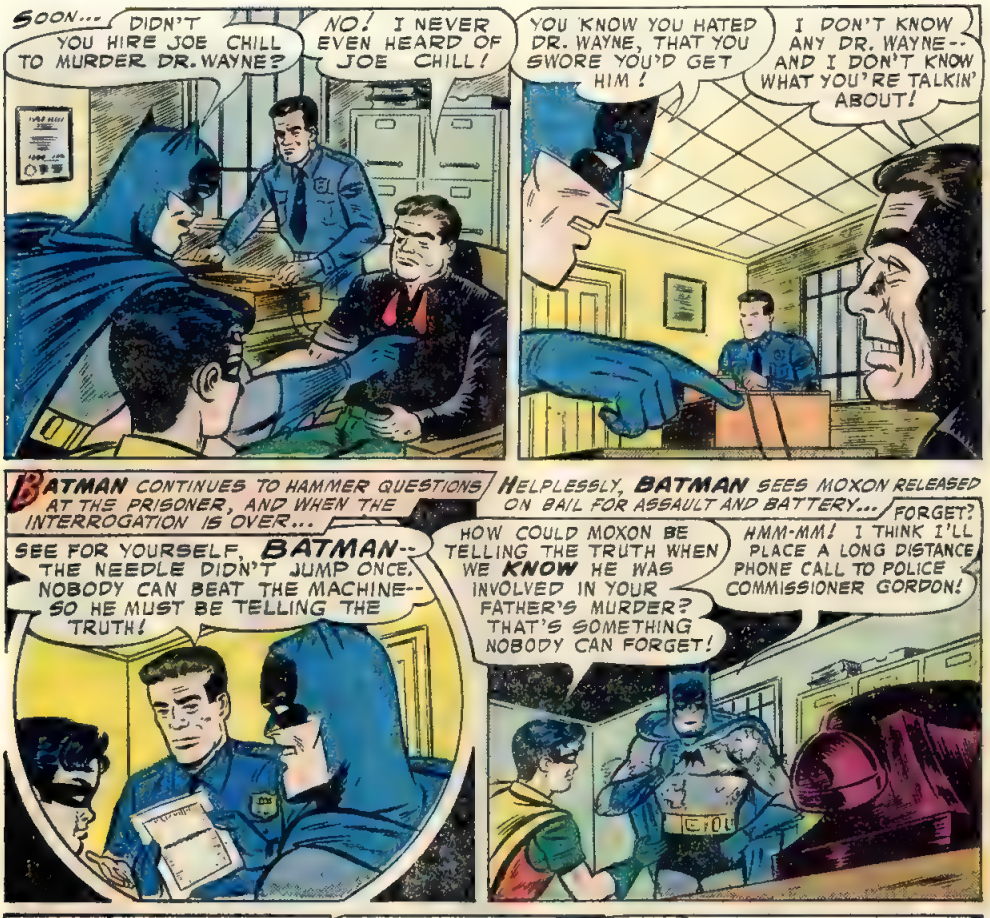

HERE THE DIARY ENDS!
THIS MEANS JOE CHILL ONLY PRETENDED TO BE A HOLDUP MAN-- ACTUALLY HE WAS MOXON'S HIRED KILLER! MOXON MUST HAVE ORDERED CHILL NOT TO KILL ME, TOO-- SO I'D BE ALIVE TO TESTIFY THAT MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY A ROBBER!
5

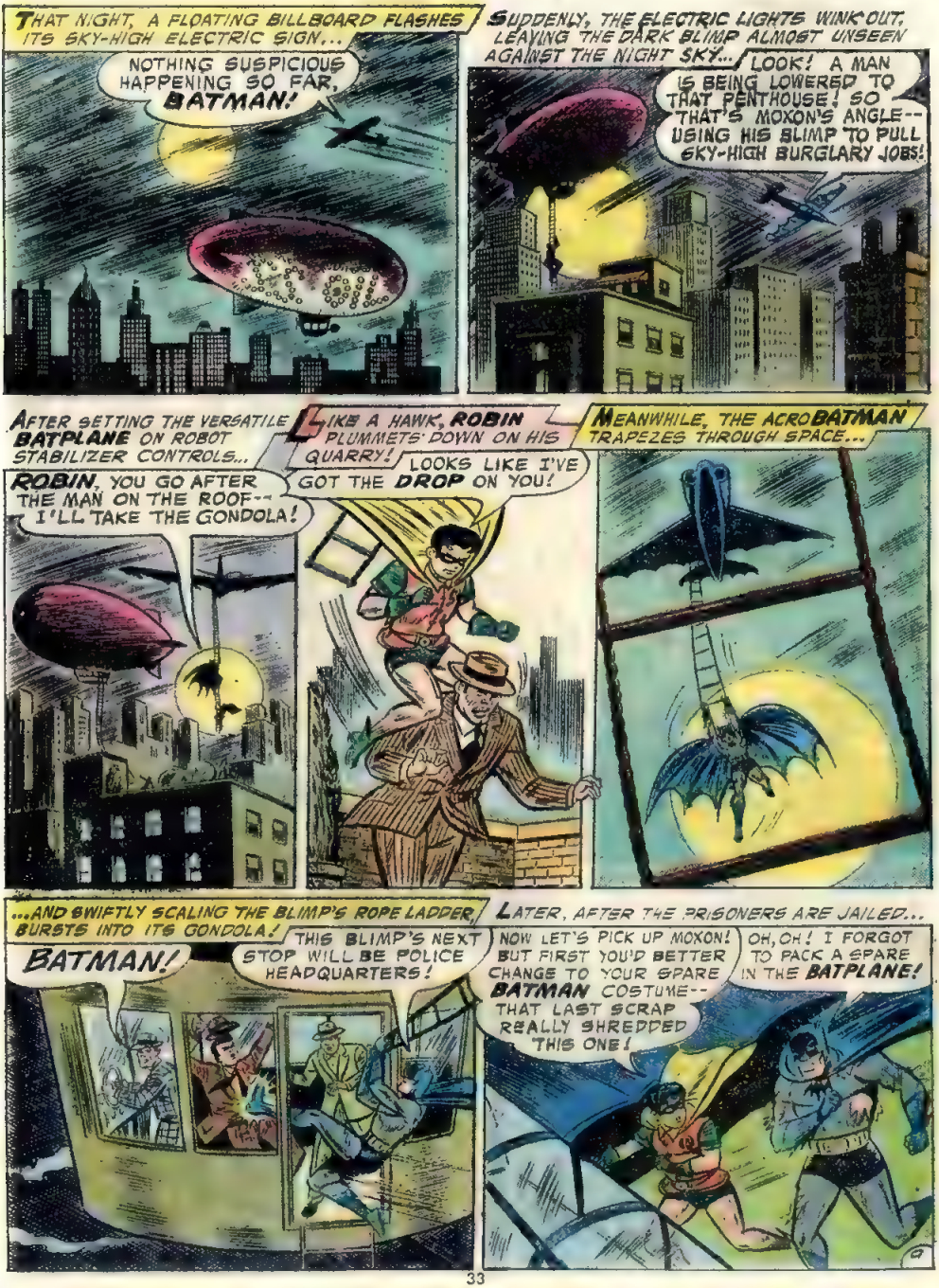

GOSH, BRUCE--MOXON USED YOU AS HIS ALIBI!
HE USED ME AS A COVERUP FOR HIS DELIBERATE MURDER OF MY PARENTS! PUT ON YOUR COSTUME, DICK-- WE'VE JUST REOPENED THE WAYNE MURDER CASE!
LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
COMMISSIONER, I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF LEW MOXON!
I'LL HAVE THIS TELE-PHOTOED TO EVERY POLICE DEPART-MENT IN THE COUNTRY!
AND WHEN THE INFORMATION COMES...
MOXON IS NOW IN THE BILLBOARD BLIMP BUSINESS OUT WEST-- IN COASTAL CITY!

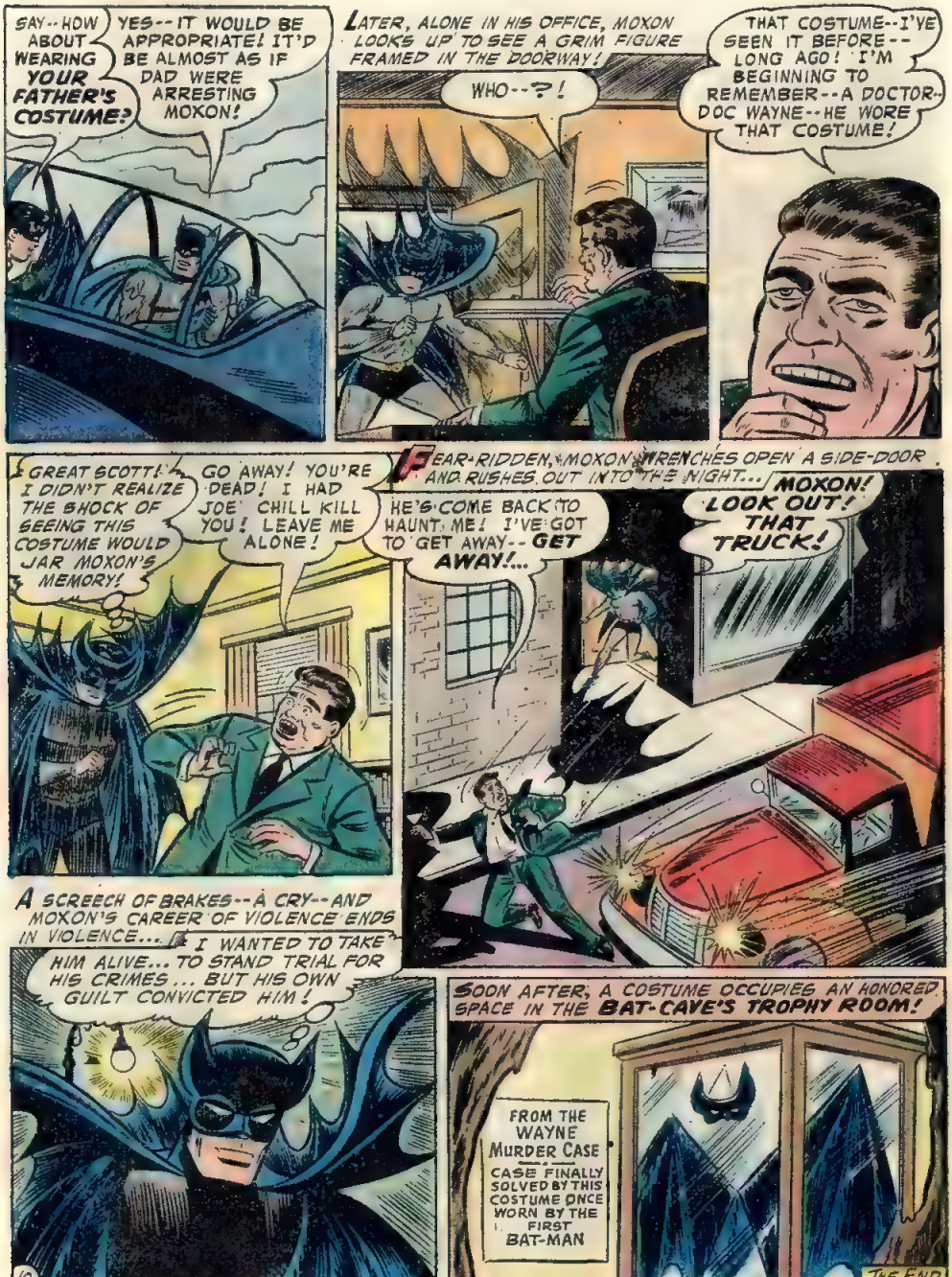

SOON AFTER, THE SLEEK BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE SKIES...
WHY DID YOU HAVE ME BRING ALONG YOUR FATHER'S COSTUME, BATMAN?
IT GIVES ME THE FEELING THAT MY FATHER IS WITH ME ON THIS CASE!
HOURS LATER, AT THEIR DESTINATION, TWO FIGURES MOVE LIKE SHADOWS TOWARDS A BLIMP HANGAR...
MOXON SKY-HI ADVERTISING CO.


BUT, IN THE DARKNESS, ROBIN'S FOOT KICKS A MISPLACED GASOLINE CAN...
CLANK
BATMAN AND ROBIN! GET 'EM!
6

AS ROBIN DARTS FORWARD, A SWINGING SANDBAG TREACHEROUSLY FELLS HIM!
UH-H!
WE GOT THE BRAT! BATMAN WILL BE EASIER TO TAKE NOW!
BOP!
UNDER THE IMPACT OF FOUR THUGS, BATMAN IS BROUGHT DOWN...
...BUT NOT FOR LONG!
THIS'LL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF ALL OF YOU!
LATER... LEW MOXON, I'M CHARGING YOU WITH THE MURDER OF DR. THOMAS WAYNE!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER ME FOR?
INCREDIBLY, A SMILE OF RELIEF PASSES OVER THE ACCUSED'S FACE...
I NEVER HEARD OF ANY DR. WAYNE! I'M EVEN WILLING TO TAKE THE LIE DETECTOR TEST TO PROVE IT!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL SOON SEE IF YOU ARE LYING!
7

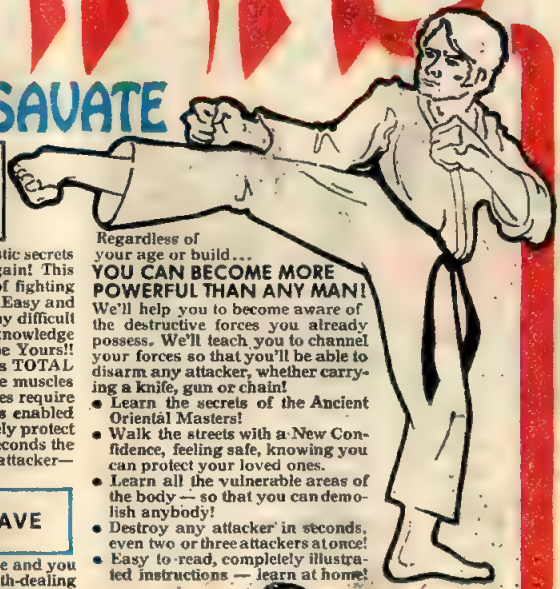

SOON... DIDN'T YOU HIRE JOE CHILL TO MURDER DR. WAYNE?
NO! I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF JOE CHILL!
YOU KNOW YOU HATED DR. WAYNE, THAT YOU SWORE YOU'D GET HIM!
I DON'T KNOW ANY DR. WAYNE-- AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT!
BATMAN CONTINUES TO HAMMER QUESTIONS AT THE PRISONER, AND WHEN THE INTERROGATION IS OVER...
SEE FOR YOURSELF, BATMAN-- THE NEEDLE DIDN'T JUMP ONCE. NOBODY CAN BEAT THE MACHINE-- SO HE MUST BE TELLING THE TRUTH!
HELPLESSLY, BATMAN SEES MOXON RELEASED ON BAIL FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY...
HOW COULD MOXON BE TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN WE KNOW HE WAS INVOLVED IN YOUR FATHER'S MURDER? THAT'S SOMETHING NOBODY CAN FORGET!
FORGET? HMM-MM! I THINK I'LL PLACE A LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALL TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON!
LATER...
YOU SAY MOXON WAS IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT RIGHT AFTER DR. WAYNE WAS MURDERED?
YES! HE HAD A HEAD INJURY! ONE DAY HE WANDERED AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL AND NOBODY EVER SAW HIM AFTER THAT.
ROBIN, THAT HEAD INJURY GAVE MOXON AMNESIA, LOSS OF MEMORY! HE DOESN'T REMEMBER MY FATHER OR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE AUTO ACCIDENT!
GOLLY! WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?
KEEP AFTER MOXON! HE MUST BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING SHADY--OTHERWISE HIS MEN WOULDN'T HAVE JUMPED US! TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO TRAIL HIS BLIMP!
R


THAT NIGHT, A FLOATING BILLBOARD FLASHES ITS SKY-HIGH ELECTRIC SIGN...
NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAPPENING SO FAR, BATMAN!
SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS WINK OUT, LEAVING THE DARK BLIMP ALMOST UNSEEN AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY...
LOOK! A MAN IS BEING LOWERED TO THAT PENTHOUSE! SO THAT'S MOXON'S ANGLE-- USING HIS BLIMP TO PULL SKY-HIGH BURGLARY JOBS!
AFTER SETTING THE VERSATILE BATPLANE ON ROBOT STABILIZER CONTROLS...
ROBIN, YOU GO AFTER THE MAN ON THE ROOF-- I'LL TAKE THE GONDOLA!
LIKE A HAWK, ROBIN PLUMMETS DOWN ON HIS QUARRY!
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT THE DROP ON YOU!
MEANWHILE, THE ACRO BATMAN TRAPEZES THROUGH SPACE...
...AND SWIFTLY SCALING THE BLIMP'S ROPE LADDER, BURSTS INTO ITS GONDOLA!
BATMAN!
THIS BLIMP'S NEXT STOP WILL BE POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
LATER, AFTER THE PRISONERS ARE JAILED...
NOW LET'S PICK UP MOXON! BUT FIRST YOU'D BETTER CHANGE TO YOUR SPARE BATMAN COSTUME-- THAT LAST SCRAP REALLY SHREDDED THIS ONE!
OH, OH! I FORGOT TO PACK A SPARE IN THE BATPLANE!


SAY--HOW ABOUT WEARING YOUR FATHER'S COSTUME?
YES--IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE! IT'D BE ALMOST AS IF DAD WERE ARRESTING MOXON!
LATER, ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, MOXON LOOKS UP TO SEE A GRIM FIGURE FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY!
WHO--?!
THAT COSTUME--I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE--LONG AGO! I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER--A DOCTOR--DOC WAYNE--HE WORE THAT COSTUME!
GREAT SCOTT! I DIDN'T REALIZE THE SHOCK OF SEEING THIS COSTUME WOULD JAR MOXON'S MEMORY!
GO AWAY! YOU'RE DEAD! I HAD JOE CHILL KILL YOU! LEAVE ME ALONE!
FEAR-RIDDEN, MOXON WRENCHES OPEN A SIDE-DOOR AND RUSHES OUT INTO THE NIGHT...
HE'S COME BACK TO HAUNT ME! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY--GET AWAY!...
MOXON! LOOK OUT! THAT TRUCK!
A SCREECH OF BRAKES--A CRY--AND MOXON'S CAREER OF VIOLENCE ENDS IN VIOLENCE...
I WANTED TO TAKE HIM ALIVE... TO STAND TRIAL FOR HIS CRIMES... BUT HIS OWN GUILT CONVICTED HIM!
10
SOON AFTER, A COSTUME OCCUPIES AN HONORED SPACE IN THE BAT-CAVE'S TROPHY ROOM!
FROM THE WAYNE MURDER CASE
CASE FINALLY SOLVED BY THIS COSTUME ONCE WORN BY THE FIRST BAT-MAN
THE END.

KARATE

JUDO-JIU-JITSU-SAVATE



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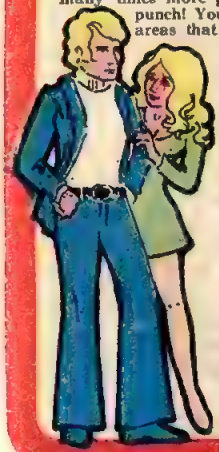

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HOW ABOUT IT, *ALFRED*? AS MY BUTLER, YOU'RE PART OF MY "*FAMILY*"! DOES THE STORY I JUST TOLD REMIND YOU OF ANYTHING?

IN A WAY, SIR! YOU TOLD OF WEARING YOUR *FATHER'S* COSTUME! WELL, I RECALL ONCE, YEARS AGO, WHEN *I* MASQUERADED IN *YOUR* COSTUME, TO IMPRESS A YOUNG LADY! AND *OH!* WHAT HAPPENED TO ME!

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

ART: JERRY ROBINSON

BEAUTY MAKES MEN DO STRANGE THINGS, FOR IT IS A HEADY WINE THAT CONQUERS REASON AND OBSCURES THE SIGHT! BUT WHEN A FAIR DAMOSEL TAKES HEARTS BY STORM AND BARTERS THEM IN A CROOKED GAME OF GAIN, THEN BEWARE THE RIGHTEOUS WRATH OF THE ROMANTIC ROMEO! THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** FIND A CRIME NEST CONCEALED BEHIND A HEARTFEST WHEN CUPID'S DARTS HURL HAVOC INTO THEIR HAPPY HOUSEHOLD IN THE TALE OF...

"THE DUPED DOMESTICS!"

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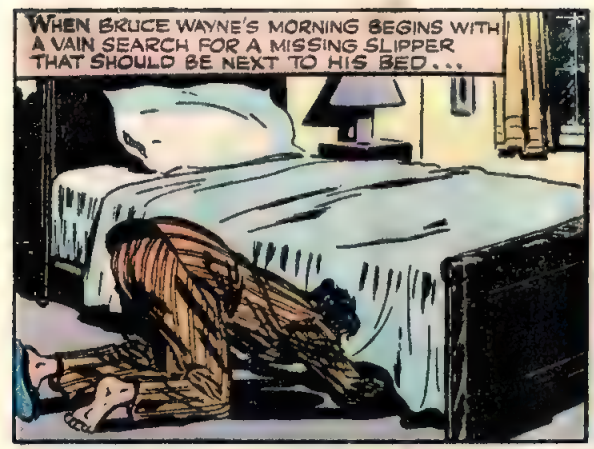
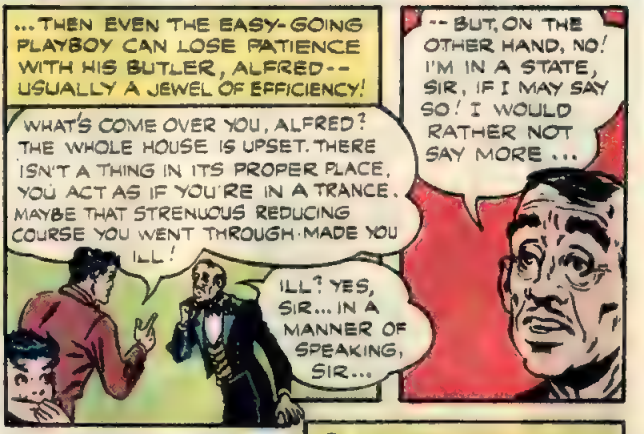
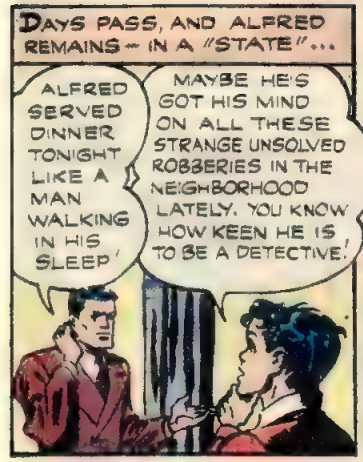
N·BIO


WHEN BRUCE WAYNE'S MORNING BEGINS WITH A VAIN SEARCH FOR A MISSING SLIPPER THAT SHOULD BE NEXT TO HIS BED...

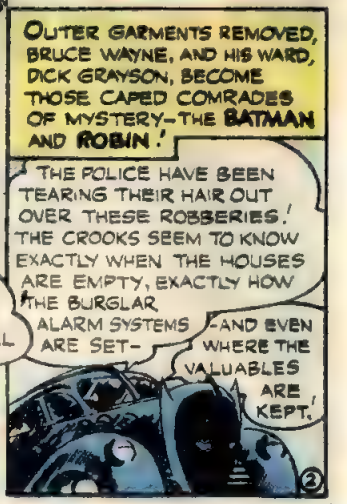
... AND HIS CLEAN SHIRTS ARE NOT IN THEIR PROPER PLACE...

-- AND HE EATS A HALF COOKED BREAKFAST WHICH ENDS WITH THE COFFEE BEING SPILLED ON HIS LAP!


...THEN EVEN THE EASY-GOING PLAYBOY CAN LOSE PATIENCE WITH HIS BUTLER, ALFRED-- USUALLY A JEWEL OF EFFICIENCY!
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, ALFRED? THE WHOLE HOUSE IS UPSET. THERE ISN'T A THING IN ITS PROPER PLACE. YOU ACT AS IF YOU'RE IN A TRANCE. MAYBE THAT STRENUOUS REDUCING COURSE YOU WENT THROUGH MADE YOU ILL!
ILL? YES, SIR... IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, SIR...
-- BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, NO! I'M IN A STATE, SIR, IF I MAY SAY SO! I WOULD RATHER NOT SAY MORE ...


DAYS PASS, AND ALFRED REMAINS - IN A "STATE"...
ALFRED SERVED DINNER TONIGHT LIKE A MAN WALKING IN HIS SLEEP!
MAYBE HE'S GOT HIS MIND ON ALL THESE STRANGE UNSOLVED ROBBERIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LATELY. YOU KNOW HOW KEEN HE IS TO BE A DETECTIVE!

WELL, I WISH HE'D STICK TO HIS BUTTLING AND LEAVE THE DETECTIVE WORK TO US, WHICH REMINDS ME - BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON THIS EVENING!
YES, AND WE'D BETTER GET GOING OR WE'LL BE LATE!


OUTER GARMENTS REMOVED, BRUCE WAYNE, AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, BECOME THOSE CAPED COMRADES OF MYSTERY - THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
THE POLICE HAVE BEEN TEARING THEIR HAIR OUT OVER THESE ROBBERIES! THE CROOKS SEEM TO KNOW EXACTLY WHEN THE HOUSES ARE EMPTY, EXACTLY HOW THE BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS ARE SET-
-AND EVEN WHERE THE VALUABLES ARE KEPT!
2

THE DUPED DOMESTICS

PRESENTLY...
WE'VE BEEN DOING EVERY-THING POSSIBLE FOR THE PAST WEEK, COMMISSIONER, BUT SO FAR THERE'S NOT BEEN A TRACE OF A CLUE!
MY WHOLE DEPARTMENT IS UP IN THE AIR! BATMAN-- YOU'VE GOT TO SUCCEED IN THIS!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST!
COMMISSIONER GORDON IS IN A TOUGH SPOT! THE WHOLE CITY IS ON HIS NECK!
IF ONLY WE HAD SOME KIND OF CLUE...
IT'S PLAIN THAT I'VE GOT TO DO SOME HEAVY THINKING ABOUT THESE ROBBERIES! BUT FIRST I'D LIKE TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.
FRANKLY, I'M NOT SO ANXIOUS TO SAMPLE ALFRED'S HALF-BAKED COOKING AGAIN!
SUDDENLY, AS THE CAREENING BATMOBILE ROUNDS A CORNER...
EITHER YOU COME ACROSS WIT' DAT PITCHER OR WE WRING IT OUTA YOU!
NO-- RELEASE ME, I SAY! OUCH! LET GO!
ROBIN, LOOK! THOSE THUGS ARE ATTACKING THAT BUTLER!
THERE SOITENLY IS A BIG TOINOVER IN BUTLERS DESE DAYS!
BRUTES! SCOUNDRELS!
AH-- HERE IT IS!
IT'S BOTTOM, THE VAN HOUTENS' MAN!
SWIFTLY TWO CAPED FIGURES STREAK TO THE RESCUE OF THE EMBATTLED BUTLER!
NO GENTLEMAN WOULD ATTACK A GENTLEMAN'S GENTLEMAN!
ULP-- DOUBLE TROUBLE! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
GAFF
NEVER BATTER A BUTLER WHEN I'M AROUND!

THIS OUGHT TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON YOU!
OH, YEAH?
BOTTOMS UP!
GUESS THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH! BUT WHAT WERE THEY AFTER?
ER-- WELL, THE TRUTH IS, MR. BATMAN, THEY STOLE MY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GIRL I-- WELL, YOU SEE, SHE'S A MAID AT MR. CRAVEN'S PLACE, AND...
I--ER-- HELPED MYSELF TO HER PICTURE WHEN I ATTENDED THE SERVANTS' BALL GIVEN LAST WEEK AT MR. CRAVEN'S HOME. BUT I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA WHY THOSE BLACKGUARDS SHOULD TRY TO GET IT AWAY FROM ME...!
THE SERVANTS' BALL? OH, YES--CRAVEN BOUGHT THE OLD PUYSTER MANSION AND THREW A BALL FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVANTS TO OUTRAGE HIS SWANKY NEIGHBORS. ECCENTRIC SORT OF CHAP, I HEAR.
STILL--WHY SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO STEAL A MAID'S PHOTOGRAPH?
PROBABLY HER REAL BOY FRIEND GOT JEALOUS!
OF COURSE! I REMEMBER NOW, WHEN I TOLD BELINDA ABOUT IT, SHE ASKED ME TO RETURN IT AND WARNED ME THAT HER BOY FRIEND WOULD BE ANGRY!
WHISPER: HERE'S HOPING ALFRED HAS SNAPPED OUT OF HIS DAZE LONG ENOUGH TO DO A LITTLE COOKING!
AH, IF I COULD ONLY BE LIKE BATMAN, I COULD SWEEP BELINDA OFF HER FEET!

THE DUPED DOMESTICS

I STILL THINK IT MIGHT BE SAFER TO EAT IN A RESTAURANT. THESE BURGLARIES ARE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITHOUT HAVING INDIGESTION ON TOP OF IT!
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO LAY DOWN THE LAW TO ALFRED. AFTER ALL, THERE CAN'T BE ANY REAL REASON FOR HIS QUEER BEHAVIOR!
NO REASON? ALFRED'S ANTICS DURING HIS MASTERS' ABSENCE SEEM TO INDICATE OTHERWISE!
HMM... A BIT ON THE DIGNIFIED SIDE, BUT STILL A SIGHT TO CAPTIVATE THE HEART OF A FAIR MAID. NOW TO GO FORTH AND CONQUER!
AT LAST--A CLUE TO ALFRED'S QUEER CONDUCT! YET WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT A ROMANTIC HEART BEAT BENEATH THAT STARCHED SHIRT FRONT?
... AND THIS TIME, I INTEND TO BE FIRM. AFTER ALL, AM I NOT THE SOLE CONFIDANTE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, AND THEREFORE A PERSON OF CONSEQUENCE?
ALFRED'S DESTINATION--A SECLUDED BENCH IN GOTHAM PARK...
BELINDA, YOUR FAIR PRESENCE ADDS BEAUTY TO THE SPRINGTIME!
WHICH IS NO REASON TO KEEP ME WAITING HALF AN HOUR!
BELINDA--A FAMILIAR NAME! BUT ALFRED SEEMS WELL AWARE THAT HIS HEART'S DESIRE HAS CAPTURED THE AFFECTION OF OTHERS!
WHAT IS HALF AN HOUR WHEN LOVE IS ETERNAL? BESIDES, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING OUT WITH ALL THE OTHER SERVANTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! REALLY, I RESENT SUCH FICKLENESS IN ONE SO FAIR!
AND SINCE WHEN ARE YOU SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE OTHERS? WHY SHOULD I GO OUT JUST WITH YOU?
WELL, IF YOU MUST KNOW--I'M NOT JUST AN ORDINARY BUTLER! AH, HOW ASTONISHED YOU WOULD BE WERE I AT LIBERTY TO REVEAL MY IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS!
SO--YOU FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE, DO YOU? WELL, SUPPOSE I TOLD YOU THAT I WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE BATMAN?
THE BATMAN! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! HMM... IF THE BATMAN IS REALLY YOUR FRIEND, WHY CAN'T I MEET HIM?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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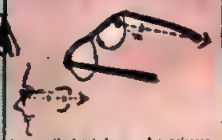

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This whistle won't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.

No. 701 ..... $1.00

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Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.

We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00.

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

For COD orders please send 50c good will deposit. Pay postman the balance on delivery plus COD and handling charges.

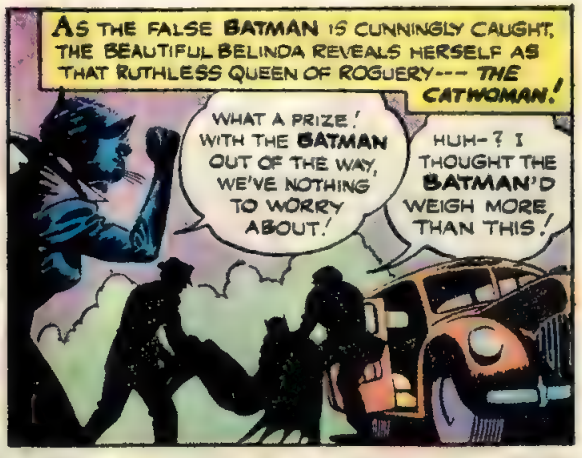
NAME

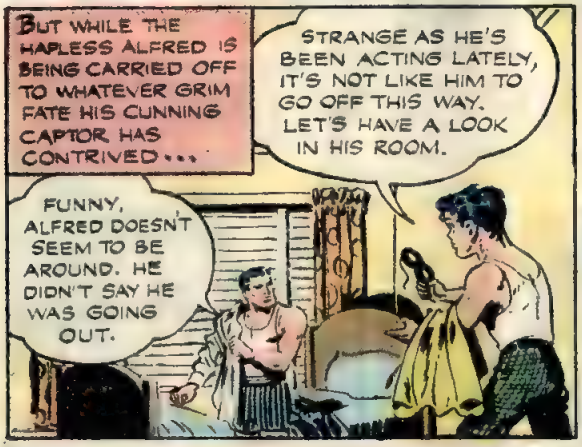
ADDRESS ZIP

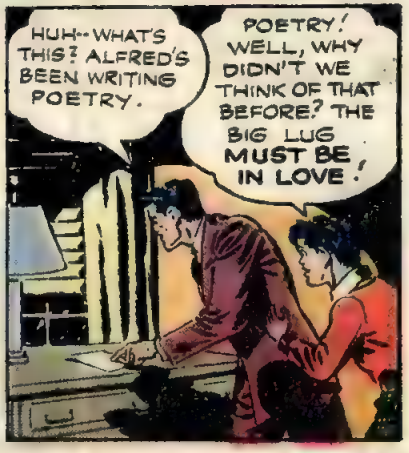
New York State residents add appropriate sales tax

MEET THE BATMAN? WELL--ER-- YOU SEE, IT WOULD BE RATHER DIFFICULT... GETTING IN TOUCH WITH HIM, YOU KNOW...
SURE-- BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THE BATMAN FROM ADAM!
IS THAT SO? THEN I'LL JUST SHOW YOU. YOU WAIT HERE AND I'LL SEE THAT YOU MEET THE BATMAN. I CAN'T BE BACK MYSELF BECAUSE--ER-- I'VE SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO TRANSACT...
WILL ALFRED KEEP HIS PROMISE? ALAS, WHO KNOWS TO WHAT AN OUTRAGED HEART MAY STOOP? LATER...
HMPH-CALLING ME A LIAR.
REMEMBER- DON'T GO AWAY!
HE ACTS AS IF HE MEANS IT... WELL, I'LL BE PREPARED!
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T DO THIS, BUT SURELY MR. WAYNE WILL BE INDULGENT... LUCKY I KNOW WHERE HE KEEPS HIS SPARE BATMAN COSTUME!
RATHER A ROOMY FIT- BUT BELINDA WON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.
SO, LATER, A DISGUISED ALFRED APPROACHES THE APPOINTED SPOT...
AH-- YOU MUST BE BELINDA! MY VERY DEAR FRIEND, ALFRED, TOLD ME I WOULD FIND YOU HERE!
IT'S REALLY HE! LUCKY I WORE THIS VEIL. BUT HE CERTAINLY LOST WEIGHT SINCE...
OH, BATMAN!
...YES INDEED, A REMARKABLE MAN, THAT ALFRED. HE'S OFTEN SAVED MY LIFE WHEN WE WERE IN TIGHT SPOTS. NATURALLY, HE'S TOO MODEST TO TAKE THE CREDIT...
INDEED? I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!
6

BEWARE, ALFRED!
--AND AS A DETECTIVE, ALFRED IS SIMPLY WONDER-- AWK!
MAYBE ALFRED'LL GET YOU OUTA THIS ONE, BATMAN!


AS THE FALSE BATMAN IS CUNNINGLY CAUGHT, THE BEAUTIFUL BELINDA REVEALS HERSELF AS THAT RUTHLESS QUEEN OF ROGUERY--- THE CATWOMAN!
WHAT A PRIZE! WITH THE BATMAN OUT OF THE WAY, WE'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
HUH-? I THOUGHT THE BATMAN'D WEIGH MORE THAN THIS!


BUT WHILE THE HAPLESS ALFRED IS BEING CARRIED OFF TO WHATEVER GRIM FATE HIS CUNNING CAPTOR HAS CONTRIVED...
STRANGE AS HE'S BEEN ACTING LATELY, IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO GO OFF THIS WAY. LET'S HAVE A LOOK IN HIS ROOM.
FUNNY, ALFRED DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AROUND. HE DIDN'T SAY HE WAS GOING OUT.


HUH--WHAT'S THIS? ALFRED'S BEEN WRITING POETRY.
POETRY! WELL, WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT BEFORE? THE BIG LUG MUST BE IN LOVE!

Fair Belinda's feline grace
Puts others' beauty to disgrace.
Her cat-like tread, her purring voice,
Make her the damsel of my choice.
HOLY SMOKE! BELINDA AGAIN! THAT GAL CERTAINLY GETS AROUND. FIRST BOTTOM AND NOW ALFRED. I WONDER HOW MANY OTHERS...?
HA-HA-- IMAGINE ALFRED WRITING SUCH CORNY STUFF!
COME TO THINK OF IT, SOME OF THE STUFF IN THAT POEM REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE. BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO...
IF WE'RE BOTH THINKING OF THE SAME PERSON, IT'S FANTASTIC, BUT IT MAKES SENSE! DICK, I'VE GOT A FUNNY HUNCH THAT BELINDA IS--THE CATWOMAN!

THE DUPED DOMESTICS

THE CATWOMAN! OF COURSE! BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT'S REALLY SHE?
THOSE ROBBERIES, BELINDA'S WIDE ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE LOCAL BUTLERS, THE FACT THAT NO ORDINARY MAID WOULD BE SO ANXIOUS TO GET A PHOTOGRAPH OUT OF CIRCULATION-- BESIDES, A MAN IN LOVE NOTICES MANY THINGS ABOUT A WOMAN, AND IF THAT POEM DOESN'T DESCRIBE THE CATWOMAN PERFECTLY-- DICK, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO OVER AT THE CRAVEN PLACE!
BUT IF THE CATWOMAN IS POSING AS A MAID THERE, HADN'T WE BETTER GO AS BATMAN AND ROBIN?
NO, WE'RE STILL NOT SURE. THIS TIME, WE'RE GOING TO PAY A NEIGHBORLY VISIT TO MR. CRAVEN SO WE CAN DO SOME QUIET SNOOPING AROUND.
A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE CRAVEN HOMESTEAD...
--AND I FELT THAT SINCE WE'RE NEIGHBORS WE OWED YOU A VISIT.
COME RIGHT IN, SIRS! DELIGHTED.
SUDDENLY--A GRIM SURPRISE AS A SMILING HOST BECOMES A SINISTER HOOD!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS --GRAB 'EM!
UP WITH THE DUKES, MAMMA'S BOY!
HUH! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
THE CATWOMAN! WHY--THEY'RE ALL IN LEAGUE!
HOW CLEVER OF YOU, MR. WAYNE. AND HOW NICE OF YOU TO DROP IN. WE WERE GOING TO ROB YOUR PLACE ANYWAY, BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WE CAN DROP OVER AND REMOVE YOUR VALUABLES AT OUR LEISURE. WE NO LONGER NEED TROUBLE ABOUT ALFRED'S UNWILLINGNESS TO REVEAL WHEN YOU WERE OUT!
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU OWN QUITE A NUMBER OF PRICELESS ANTIQUES AND SINCE THIS WILL BE OUR LAST JOB IN THIS SECTION OF THE COUNTRY, WE WANT TO DO IT THOROUGHLY! YOUR KEYS NATURALLY WILL BE A HELP!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
DON'T GET SO EXCITED, PAL! YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCE TO COOL OFF IN HERE! NOT TO MENTION THAT YOUSE WILL BE IN DISTINGUISHED COMPANY!
REFRIGERATOR

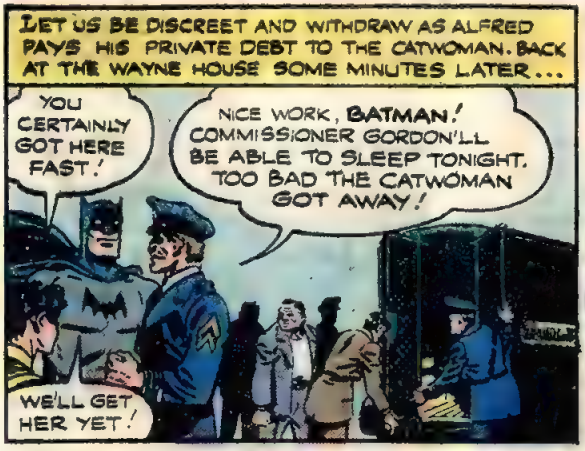
OOF-- HUH! SAY--AM I SEEING THINGS?
WHAT'S THIS? OR DO I SMELL A BUTLER UNDER THOSE CLOTHES?
KA CHOO!
I-I M-MUST C-C-CONFESS SIR--I'VE BEEN INDULGING IN A B-BIT OF-- ER--CAMOUFLAGE, IN THE NAME OF D-DAN CUPID, SIR.!
WELL, "BATMAN," SEE IF YOU CAN GET US OUT OF THIS ONE!
I CAN'T HELP LAUGHING! HE FANCIES HIMSELF A DETECTIVE AND ALL THE TIME HE'S BEEN COURTING THE CATWOMAN!
B-B-BEGGIN' YOUR P-PARDON, SIR, AND WITH ALL D-DUE RESPECT TO MY AFFAIR OF THE HEART, HOW ARE WE G-G-GOING TO G-GET LOOSE? THESE KNOTS ARE TOO TIGHT!
SAY-- THOSE MEAT HOOKS -- THEY'RE SHARP- IF WE CAN ONLY REACH THEM...
NOT MUCH CHANCE OF THAT- THEY'RE TOO HIGH!
HMM...THREE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE- WHY NOT THREE BODIES? ALFRED, ROLL OVER ON YOUR STOMACH!
UGH-- MY P-POOR D-D-DIGESTION WILL BE RUINED F-FOREVER, IF I'M N-NOT CRUSHED TO D-DEATH!
NOW, DICK, YOU SIT ON MY LEGS... IF THIS WORKS, ALFRED, YOU'LL DESERVE A MEDAL!
ON MY STOMACH?
NOT QUITE, BRUCE!
I CAN'T LIFT YOU ANY HIGHER! HOW ABOUT IT, ALFRED? CAN YOU STRAIN YOURSELF ANOTHER INCH OR SO?
IT'S WORKING... STEADY, BELOW!
OH-- MY P-POOR HEAD!
IF YOU HAD USED YOUR HEAD IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE!
9

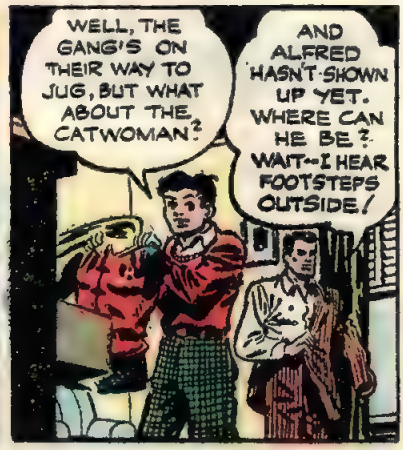
THE DUPED DOMESTICS

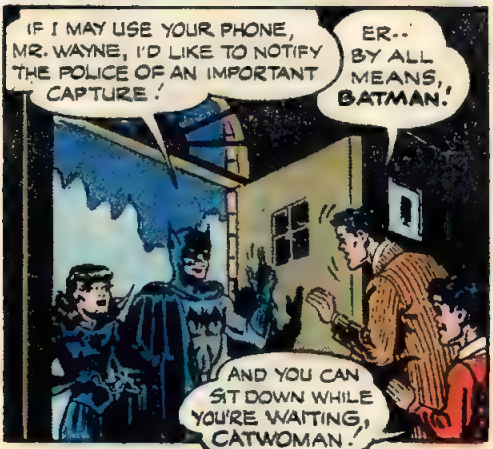
HERE THEY GO -- WHOOPS!
OOF!
SECONDS LATER, FREED OF THEIR BONDS, THREE STRONG BODIES HURTLE AGAINST THE REFRIGERATOR DOOR.
ALL TOGETHER NOW--!
OUTER CLOTHING REMOVED, THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN SPEED ON WINGED FEET TOWARD THE WAYNE MANSION --
I'M AFRAID THERE'S SOMETHING OF THE SNAIL ABOUT ALFRED. HOPE WE GET THERE IN TIME!
IF THEY COUNT ON MOVING OUT ALL OUR ANTIQUES, THEY'LL STILL BE BUSY!
PUFF-PUFF... DEAR ME, I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THEM... MUST SIT DOWN AND CATCH MY BREATH...
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT FOR NERVE? IF ANYBODY ASKS QUESTIONS, THEY JUST SHOW MY KEYS AND IT LOOKS LEGITIMATE!
WELL, HERE'S WHERE WE PROVE IT ISN'T!
I KNOW A FENCE WHAT'LL SHELL OUT PLENTY OF DOUGH FOR DIS HUNK OF CROCKERY!
DIS IS HOW I LIKE TO DO BUSINESS -- RIGHT OUT IN DE OPEN!
HEY-- I'M SEEIN' T'INGS!
WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU'LL BE SEEING BARS!

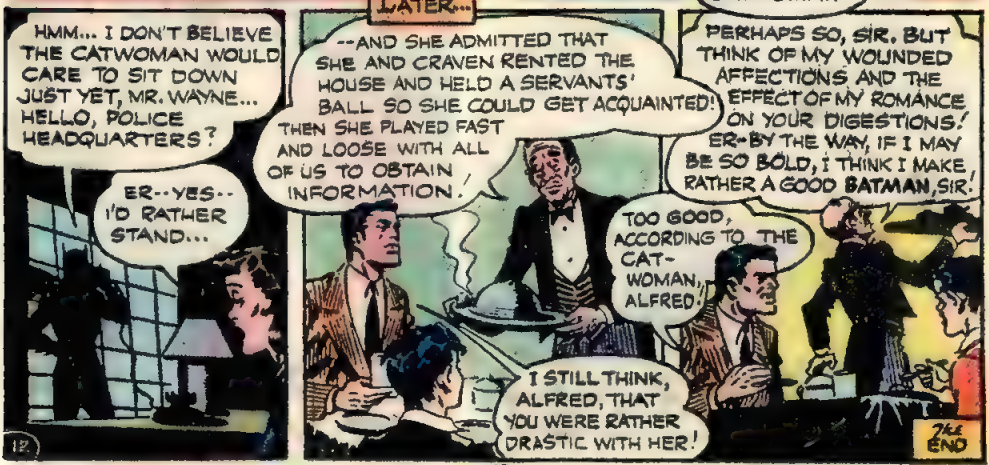
RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG--IN THE JUG!
THIS OUGHT TO GIVE YOUR FACE A NICE ANTIQUE FINISH!
HERE'S THE LATEST IN EXTERIOR DECORATIONS, BRAT!
YOU MEAN THIS, DON'T YOU?
CLUNK
OOF--I'VE BEEN FRAMED!
THE CATWOMAN--WHERE IS SHE?
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, WATCHFUL EYES WIDEN IN WONDER AT AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW...
FEAR LENDS WINGS TO FELINE FEET AS THE CATWOMAN FLEES THROUGH THE BACK DOOR...
OH-OH! ROBIN MUST HAVE FREED THE BATMAN! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE'D SHOW UP! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
--AND TO THINK THAT I HAD THE BATMAN SAFELY LOCKED AWAY! IT NEVER FAILS TO END LIKE THIS! BUT HE WON'T GET ME THIS TIME!
NO--THIS TIME I'VE GOT A GOOD START AND--AWK! BATMAN! HOW DID YOU GET HERE SO FAST?
HOW DID THE BATMAN MANAGE IT? OR PERHAPS--YES, IT IS! IT'S ALFRED!
WELL, WHAT AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PAY OFF A LITTLE DEBT FOR MY GOOD FRIEND ALFRED. A LITTLE SPANKING WILL DO THE TRICK. AND, BELIEVE ME, IT WILL HURT YOU MORE THAN IT WILL ME!
AWK!

THE DUPED DOMESTICS


LET US BE DISCREET AND WITHDRAW AS ALFRED PAYS HIS PRIVATE DEBT TO THE CATWOMAN. BACK AT THE WAYNE HOUSE SOME MINUTES LATER...
YOU CERTAINLY GOT HERE FAST!
NICE WORK, BATMAN! COMMISSIONER GORDON'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP TONIGHT. TOO BAD THE CATWOMAN GOT AWAY!
WE'LL GET HER YET!


WELL, THE GANG'S ON THEIR WAY TO JUG, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CATWOMAN?
AND ALFRED HASN'T SHOWN UP YET. WHERE CAN HE BE? WAIT--I HEAR FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE!


IF I MAY USE YOUR PHONE, MR. WAYNE, I'D LIKE TO NOTIFY THE POLICE OF AN IMPORTANT CAPTURE!
ER-- BY ALL MEANS, BATMAN!
AND YOU CAN SIT DOWN WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, CATWOMAN!


LATER...
HMM... I DON'T BELIEVE THE CATWOMAN WOULD CARE TO SIT DOWN JUST YET, MR. WAYNE... HELLO, POLICE HEADQUARTERS?
ER--YES-- I'D RATHER STAND...
--AND SHE ADMITTED THAT SHE AND CRAVEN RENTED THE HOUSE AND HELD A SERVANTS' BALL SO SHE COULD GET ACQUAINTED! THEN SHE PLAYED FAST AND LOOSE WITH ALL OF US TO OBTAIN INFORMATION!
PERHAPS SO, SIR. BUT THINK OF MY WOUNDED AFFECTIONS AND THE EFFECT OF MY ROMANCE ON YOUR DIGESTIONS! ER--BY THE WAY, IF I MAY BE SO BOLD, I THINK I MAKE RATHER A GOOD BATMAN, SIR!
TOO GOOD, ACCORDING TO THE CAT-WOMAN, ALFRED!
I STILL THINK, ALFRED, THAT YOU WERE RATHER DRASTIC WITH HER!
THE END

THE STORY OF THE BATMOBILE

N-842

IN EARLY *BATMAN* STORIES, THERE WAS NO SPECIAL *BATMOBILE*! THIS IS FROM *DETECTIVE COMICS #30*; AUG., 1939.

DETECTIVE #35; JAN., 1940 NOW THE CAR WAS A CONVERTIBLE!

DETECTIVE #48; FEB., 1941, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE NAME *BATMOBILE* WAS USED!

BATMAN #5; SPRING, 1941 THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE DISTINCTIVE *BATMOBILE* WITH ITS BAT-HEAD FRONT!

THE *BATMOBILE* OF 1950 HAD A NEW DESIGN AND MANY EXTRAS! (*DETECTIVE #156*; FEB., 1950).

IT INCLUDED RESERVE ROCKET-TUBES, A SEARCH-LIGHT, RADAR, TV AND BUILT-IN CRIME LAB!

A SPORTS MODEL CAME ALONG IN THE "NEW LOOK" *BATMAN #164*, JUNE, 1964!

A NEW-MODEL *BATMOBILE* APPEARED IN *DETECTIVE #362*; APRIL, 1967

A "SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DESIGN, WITHOUT THE BAT-HEAD EMBLEM, APPEARED IN *DETECTIVE #371*; JAN., 1968.

THE NEXT *BATMOBILE* WAS DEPICTED ON THE COVER OF *DETECTIVE #375*, MAY, 1968, BUT THIS VERSION DID NOT APPEAR *INSIDE* THAT ISSUE!

IN *DETECTIVE #394*; (DEC., 1969) *THE BATMAN* ADOPTED A *NEW* VEHICLE! THE WINDOWS WERE MADE OF SPECIAL GLASS, ENABLING HIM TO SEE *OUT* WHILE NO ONE COULD SEE *IN*!

STILL ANOTHER *BATMOBILE* MODEL WAS INTRODUCED IN *DETECTIVE #400*; JUNE, 1970

AND HERE'S THE NEWEST VERSION—FROM THE *SUPER-FRIENDS* TV SHOW!

YOU CAN SEE IT ON *ABC* EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:00 O'CLOCK (8:00 CENTRAL TIME)!

FEAR NO MAN!

Says JOE WEIDER
Acknowledged World's No. 1
Trainer of Champions

WITH YOUR FIRST LESSON...You start using these destructive self-defense methods to render any bully twice your size absolutely helpless in seconds!

Faster! More Scientific! Positively Amazing! Now for the first time, you can learn and use some of the most effective, most deadly methods of Self-Defense ever devised by man—all yours in this great Course! I arm how to use, in a few days each Lesson, KARATE, SAVATE, JUDO, FOOT-FIGHTING, ROUGH & TUMBLE, BOXING, etc., to render any bully TWICE YOUR SIZE absolutely harmless in seconds. You will immediately see and learn how a smaller, weaker man, even a woman, can overpower, even cripple, a 200 pound brute in a flash. An introduction to a dynamic Course is YOURS, my 32 page Booklet giving full details and an introduction to my dynamic course, is yours for only 25 cents. I earn about centuries-old Methods of combat taken from the archives of the Indian and Japanese killer-cult temples, Nahuatian Tribes, the ferocious Aztecs, Nazi and Communist Secret Police — and now for the first time it's easy to learn some of these shocking methods in the privacy of your own home in just 15 minutes a day — gain complete confidence in yourself as you quickly learn some of the fighting know-how of the greatest Self-Defense Fighters! Here's everything you'll ever need to protect yourself and loved-ones and never be embarrassed or afraid or feel "weak in the knees" again.

Become A Terrifying, Destructive Self-Defense Fighting Machine — In Just 12 Short Lessons!

NOT SIZE • NOT POWER • NOT STRENGTH

WHAT'S THE SECRET? I don't care if you're skinny or fat, muscular or weak, tall or short, 15 or 50 —how young or old you are—I can turn you into an arsenal of power. My amazing Course is the greatest achievement in the Art of Self-Defense. It took 20 years and over $200,000.00 to uncover these terrifying combative Methods of the past. It shows that the "key" to your fighting power is in "KNOW-HOW" and not in muscles. With this know-how you can, with cool confidence, at a moment's notice, become a terrifying fighting machine unleashing hidden power that even YOU didn't know you had! Your arms can become powerful, protective shields; your legs will have the piston-like kick of a kangaroo; your fingers will jab like knives, and your shoulders, elbows, knees and feet will be sledge-hammer battering-rams of crushing force. You'll protect yourself and loved-ones from any hoodlum TWICE YOUR SIZE who's foolish enough to attack you. I GUARANTEE I CAN DO ALL THIS FOR YOU IN JUST 12 SHORT LESSONS!

DEVELOP FIGHTING CONFIDENCE WITH YOUR 1ST LESSON!

WITH THIS COURSE . . . you can become a walking "terrifying fighting machine"! Whoever is dumb enough to attack you, no matter how big, heavy or tall, you will at a second's notice be able to unleash any of the Karate, Savate, Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Commando, Jungle-Fighting, Street Fighting and other training techniques. I will show you how with just one simple jab of one finger to paralyze the toughest wrestler; with one chop shatter the strangle-hold of the most brutal street fighter and reduce these hoodlums and wise guys into yellow-belly cowards and make them writhe in pain — as if they were children! I guarantee you — my Methods are so amazing — so incredible — they practically make your hair stand on end! If you really want to be a fearless fighter mail in the coupon NOW and get your copy of my 32 PAGE BOOKLET explaining the COURSE, while the Booklets last.

RUSH THE COUPON TODAY! Only swift ACTION by YOU NOW — this very minute — brings you a copy of this Booklet ready to be mailed to you. Every page ablaze with detailed illustrations showing you how you can learn to unleash the most ferocious and dynamic Self-Defense Fighting Methods. THIS OFFER IS FOR ANYONE WHO NEVER WANTS TO FEAR ANY MAN AGAIN!

JOE WEIDER Dept: 80-34SD12 77 Maple St., Norwood, N.J. 07648

THIS BOOKLET IS YOURS FOR JUST 25¢
Mail Coupon NOW!

FEAR NO MAN EVER AGAIN!

JOE WEIDER Dept. 80-345D12
77 Maple Street, Norwood, N.J. 07648

IT'S A DEAL! I want to learn about the various Methods of your Self-Defense Course outlined in your Booklet, "Be A Destructive Self-Defense Fighter In Just 12 Short Lessons." I enclose just 25¢ to cover the cost of postage and mailing. I am also under no obligation and may request my money back if not pleased with the information

Name..... Age .....

Address .....

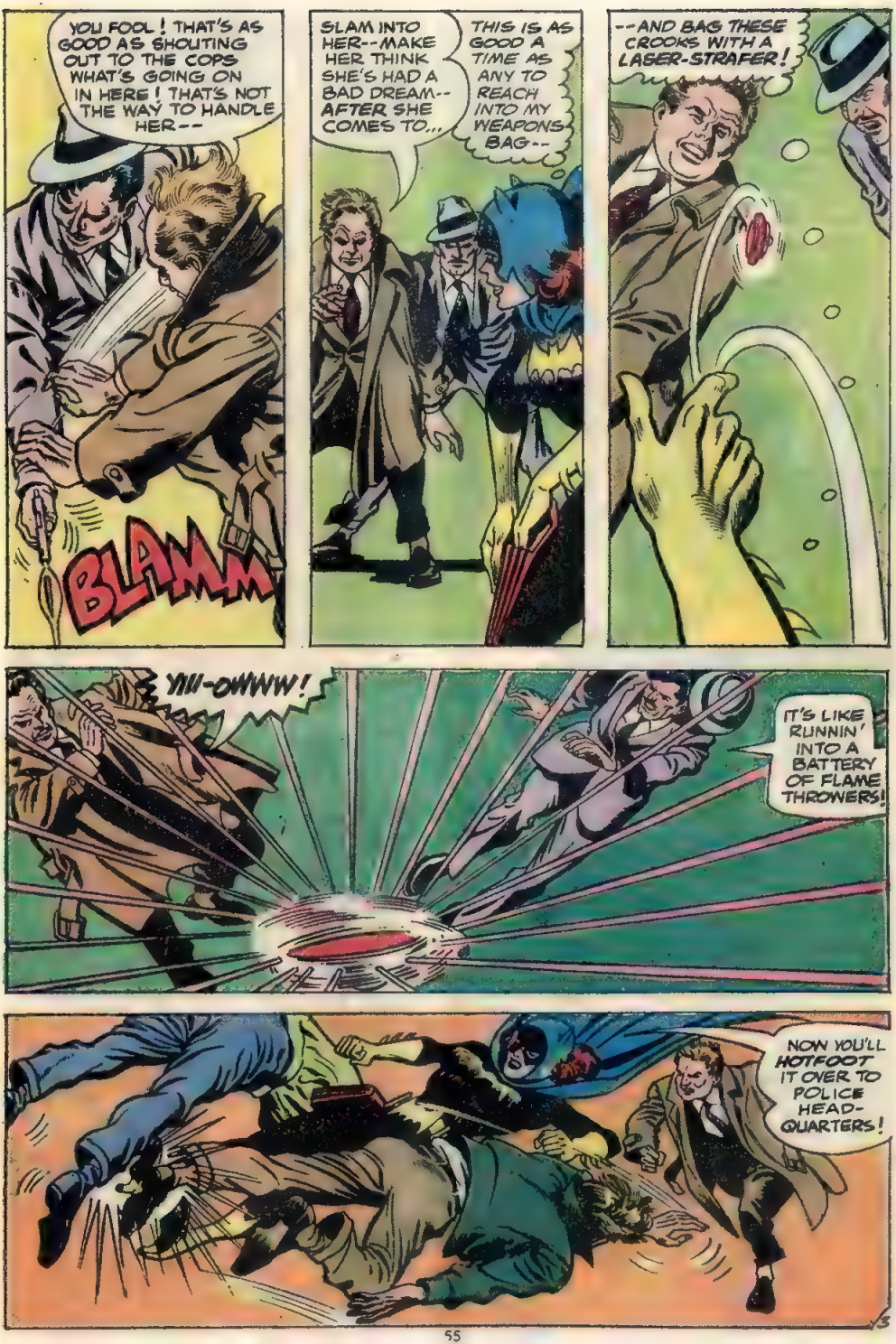
City ..... ZIP ..... State .....

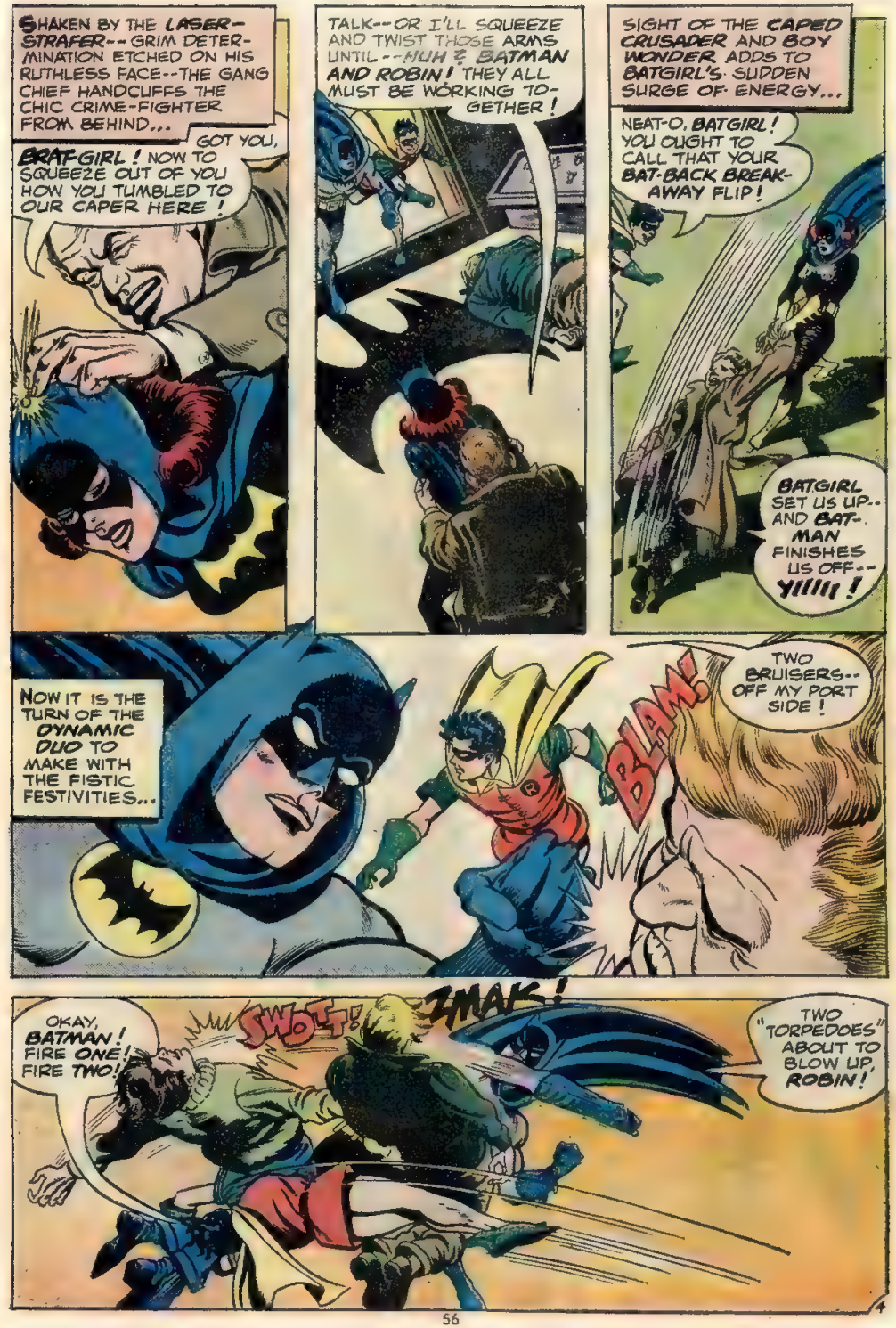
THE NEXT "FAMILY" MEMBER IS SOMEONE I'VE TEAMED UP WITH ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS! WE HAD QUITE A FEW EXCITING CASES, BATGIRL! WHICH WOULD YOU PICK TO TELL OUR READERS?
IT WAS ONE OF OUR FIRST TEAM EFFORTS, BATMAN! EACH OF US PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN SOLVING THIS ONE! IT SHOWED WHAT CAN BE DONE BY POOLING OUR TALENTS,.. AND ADDING A LITTLE TRUST!
BATMAN
With ROBIN The Boy Wonder
YOU!? I--I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!
BRUCE WAYNE'S FACE! BATMAN'S REALLY TAKING BATGIRL--WHOEVER SHE IS--INTO HIS CONFIDENCE!
STORY BY GARDNER FOX
ART BY CARMINE INFANTINO & SID GREENE

NOBODY KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BOOK-BANDITS--EXCEPT BATGIRL! NOBODY COULD FATHOM WHERE OR WHEN THEY WOULD ROB--BUT THE DOMINOED DARE-DOLL! NOBODY WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE MOB'S MASTERMIND--EXCEPT THE CHIC CRIME-FIGHTER! YET WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR BATGIRL TO PUT THE BOOK-GANG OUT OF CIRCULATION, IT COULD BE DONE ONLY BY HAVING HER LOOK UPON...

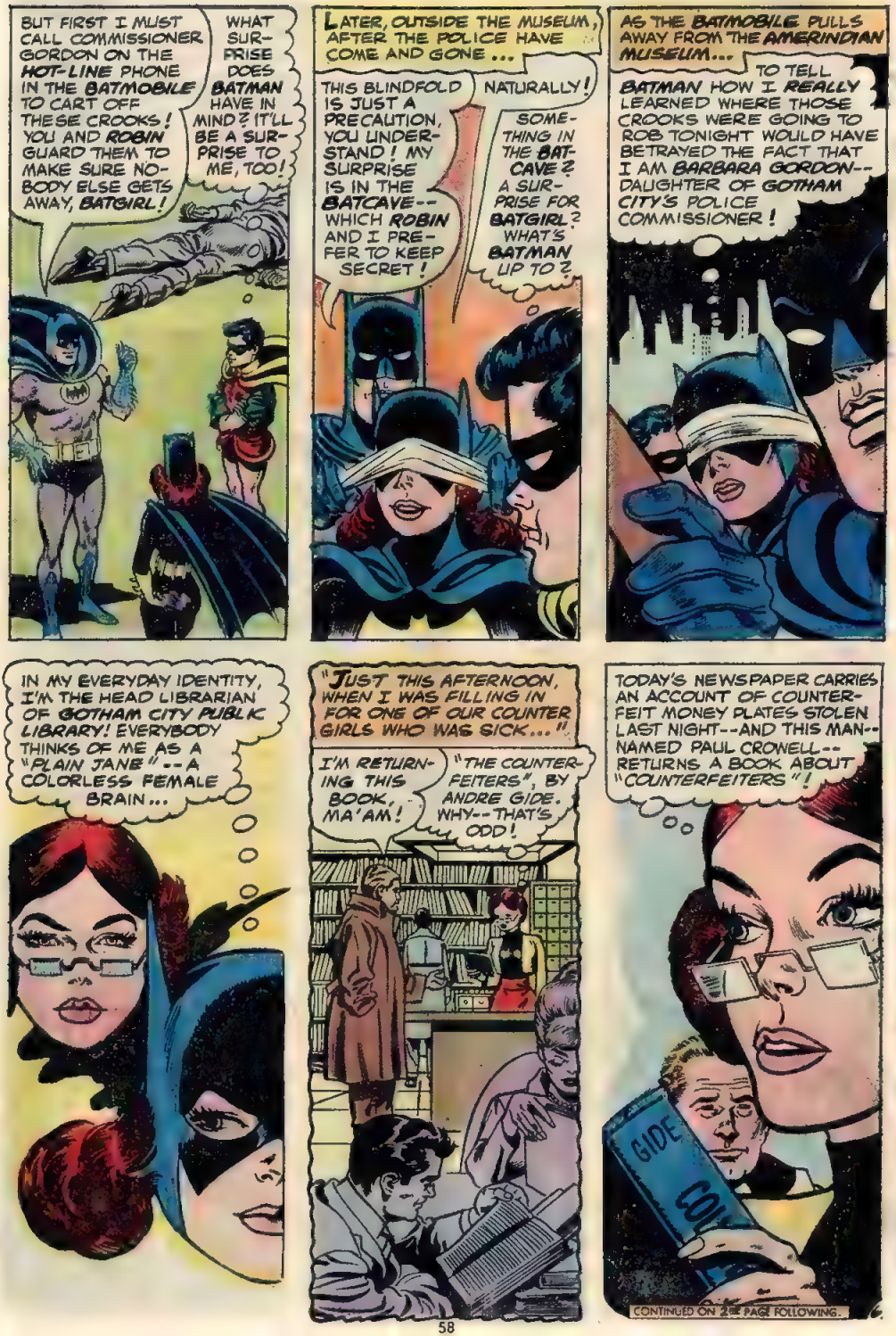
The TRUE-FALSE FACE OF BATMAN!

AFTER HOURS IN THE DARKENED HALLS OF THE AMERINDIAN MUSEUM IN GOTHAM CITY--METALLIC SNIPS BETRAY THE RIFLING OF DISPLAY CASES CONTAINING SOLID GOLD INSECTS...
HOW CAN WE MISS ON THIS CAPER--THE WAY IT WAS WORKED OUT FOR US STEP BY STEP BY MR. BRAINS!
SNIP
OUT OF THE DARKEST SHADOWS EMERGES A CAPED FIGURE...
THE CLUES ADDED UP JUST AS I FIGURED--TO THIS GOLD BUG ROBBERY!
IT'S BATMA--YULPP!
TAKE ANOTHER LOOK BEFORE YOU'RE JUDOED TO SLEEP! THAT AIN'T BATMAN!--IT'S--BATGIRL!
WHUMP
YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE MISS AMERICA?
WISECRACKIN' DAME! WE GOT TROUBLES ENOUGH WITH BATMAN--WITHOUT YOU ADDIN' TO THEM!
MR. BRAINS' PLAN DIDN'T FIGURE ON ANY INTERFERENCE! BUT I DON'T NEED AN INSTRUCTION BOOK TO TELL ME HOW TO STOP--
NO!! DON'T SHOOT!


YOU FOOL! THAT'S AS GOOD AS SHOUTING OUT TO THE COPS WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE! THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO HANDLE HER--
BLAMM
SLAM INTO HER--MAKE HER THINK SHE'S HAD A BAD DREAM--AFTER SHE COMES TO...
THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO REACH INTO MY WEAPONS BAG--
--AND BAG THESE CROOKS WITH A LASER-STRAFER!
YIII-OWWW!
IT'S LIKE RUNNIN' INTO A BATTERY OF FLAME THROWERS!
NOW YOU'LL HOTFOOT IT OVER TO POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS!


SHAKEN BY THE LASER-STRAFER--GRIM DETERMINATION ETCHED ON HIS RUTHLESS FACE--THE GANG CHIEF HANDCUFFS THE CHIC CRIME-FIGHTER FROM BEHIND...
GOT YOU, BRAT-GIRL! NOW TO SQUEEZE OUT OF YOU HOW YOU TUMBLED TO OUR CAPER HERE!
TALK--OR I'LL SQUEEZE AND TWIST THOSE ARMS UNTIL--HUH? BATMAN AND ROBIN! THEY ALL MUST BE WORKING TOGETHER!
SIGHT OF THE CAPED CRUSADER AND BOY WONDER ADDS TO BATGIRL'S SUDDEN SURGE OF ENERGY...
NEAT-O, BATGIRL! YOU OUGHT TO CALL THAT YOUR BAT-BACK BREAK-AWAY FLIP!
BATGIRL SET US UP.. AND BAT-MAN FINISHES US OFF--YIIIII!
NOW IT IS THE TURN OF THE DYNAMIC DUO TO MAKE WITH THE FISTIC FESTIVITIES...
BLAM!
TWO BRUISERS--OFF MY PORT SIDE!
OKAY, BATMAN! FIRE ONE! FIRE TWO!
SWOT!
ZMAK!
TWO "TORPEDOES" ABOUT TO BLOW UP, ROBIN!
4

A RIGHT FINISHES THIS ONE--
--LEAVING THIS ONE LEFT!
AND WHEN THE FIGHTING IS FINALIZED...
NICE GOING--EVEN IF ONE OF THE CROOKS MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY!
CLAP! CLAP!
HUH? WHICH ONE?
THE MAN I TREATED TO MY BAT-BACK BREAKAWAY FLIP! BUT TELL ME, BATMAN--HOW DID YOU KNOW THESE CROOKS WOULD BE HERE?
WE WERE ON OUR NIGHTLY PATROL, BATGIRL--
--WHEN OUR BATMOBILE'S INSTRUMENTS PICKED UP A GUNSHOT--AND TRACKED ITS SOURCE! YOUR TURN NOW--HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE KNOWN BEFOREHAND THAT THE MUSEUM WOULD BE ROBBED OF ITS GOLDEN INSECT EXHIBIT?
I HAVE MY OWN--er--SECRET SOURCES OF INFORMATION, BATMAN! AND JUST AS YOU DEDUCE CONCLUSIONS FROM KNOWN FACTS--SO DO I!
SPEAKING OF SECRETS, I HAVE A SURPRISE ONE I'M GOING TO UNRAVEL FOR YOU...


BUT FIRST I MUST CALL COMMISSIONER GORDON ON THE HOT-LINE PHONE IN THE BATMOBILE TO CART OFF THESE CROOKS! YOU AND ROBIN GUARD THEM TO MAKE SURE NOBODY ELSE GETS AWAY, BATGIRL!
WHAT SURPRISE DOES BATMAN HAVE IN MIND? IT'LL BE A SURPRISE TO ME, TOO!
LATER, OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM, AFTER THE POLICE HAVE COME AND GONE...
THIS BLINDFOLD IS JUST A PRECAUTION, YOU UNDERSTAND! MY SURPRISE IS IN THE BATCAVE--WHICH ROBIN AND I PREFER TO KEEP SECRET!
NATURALLY!
SOMETHING IN THE BATCAVE? A SURPRISE FOR BATGIRL? WHAT'S BATMAN UP TO?
AS THE BATMOBILE PULLS AWAY FROM THE AMERINDIAN MUSEUM...
TO TELL BATMAN HOW I REALLY LEARNED WHERE THOSE CROOKS WERE GOING TO ROB TONIGHT WOULD HAVE BETRAYED THE FACT THAT I AM BARBARA GORDON--DAUGHTER OF GOTHAM CITY'S POLICE COMMISSIONER!
IN MY EVERYDAY IDENTITY, I'M THE HEAD LIBRARIAN OF GOTHAM CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY! EVERYBODY THINKS OF ME AS A "PLAIN JANE"--A COLORLESS FEMALE BRAIN...
"JUST THIS AFTERNOON, WHEN I WAS FILLING IN FOR ONE OF OUR COUNTER GIRLS WHO WAS SICK..."
I'M RETURNING THIS BOOK, MA'AM!
"THE COUNTERFEITERS", BY ANDRE GIDE. WHY--THAT'S ODD!
TODAY'S NEWSPAPER CARRIES AN ACCOUNT OF COUNTERFEIT MONEY PLATES STOLEN LAST NIGHT--AND THIS MAN--NAMED PAUL CROWELL--RETURNS A BOOK ABOUT "COUNTERFEITERS"!
GIDE
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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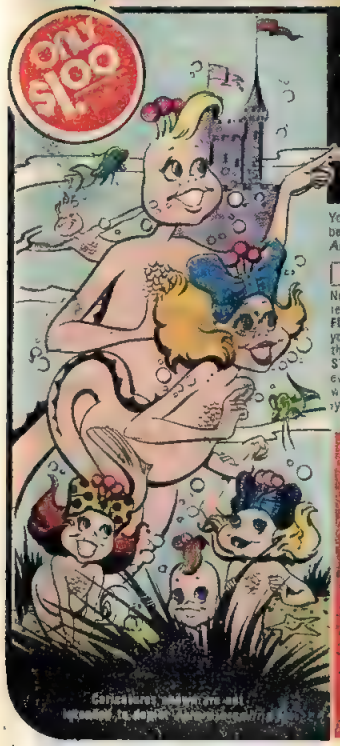

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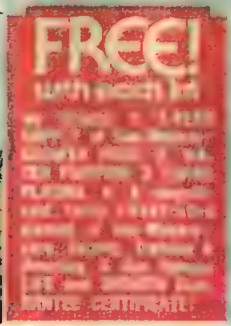

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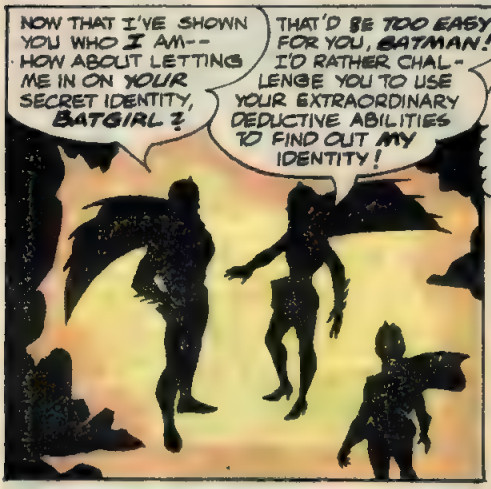
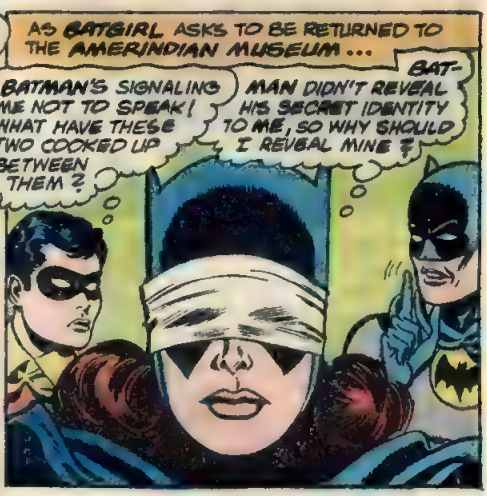
YESTERDAY, THIS MAN CROWELL RETURNED "A CROCK OF GOLD," BY JAMES STEPHENS--AND THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AN ARMORED TRUCK TRANSPORTING GOLD WAS ROBBED! IS THIS JUST A COINCIDENCE OR--
"I BEGAN CHECKING BACK IN OUR FILES..."
TWO DAYS AGO, CROWELL RETURNED "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"! THE DAY AFTER A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN FROM VENICE WAS ROBBED OF A FORTUNE IN JEWELS!
AND HOW ABOUT THIS FOR A "COINCIDENCE"! EACH OF THE BOOKS CROWELL BORROWED THIS WEEK HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN OUT--AND RETURNED A DAY LATER--BY A JOHN HART! IT SEEMS TO ADD UP TO A CRIMINAL MASTERPLAN GOING ON BETWEEN CROWELL AND HART!
"A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AS CROWELL CHECKED OUT ANOTHER BOOK..."
EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "THE GOLD BUG"--THE SAME BOOK JOHN HART RETURNED EARLIER TODAY! THE PATTERN IS HOLDING UP--BUT WHAT SORT OF CRIME DOES "THE GOLD BUG" FORECAST?
THIS MUST BE IT! AN EXHIBITION OF GOLD INSECTS--FOUND IN SOME INCA RUINS IN SOUTH AMERICA--OPENING TODAY IN THE AMERINDIAN MUSEUM! BUG IS THE POPULAR TERM FOR INSECT, SO--GOLD BUG EQUALS GOLDEN INSECT!

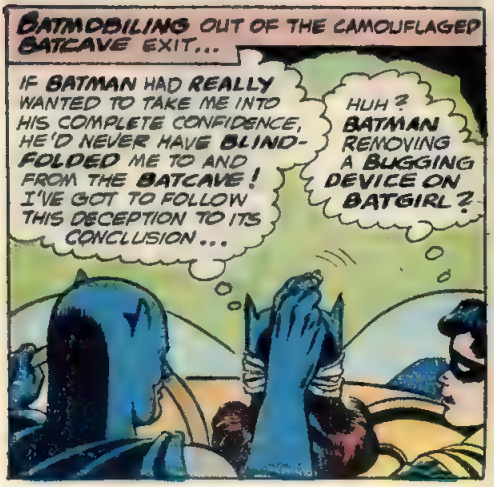
"THAT NIGHT IN A LIBRARY CLOSET WHICH I HAD CONVERTED INTO MY SECRET BATGIRL DRESSING ROOM, I DONNED MY COSTUME..."
I BRING DOWN THE ROLLED BRIM OF MY BERET...
ROLL UP MY BOOT-FLAPS...
REVERSE MY SKIRT TO FORM MY CAPE...
TURN MY HANDBAG INSIDE OUT TO BECOME MY WEAPONS BAG!
"THEN I WAS AWAY ON MY BAT-BIKE..."
THESE LAST FEW WEEKS SINCE I MADE MY BATGIRL DEBUT* HAVE BEEN ALL TOO DULL! I'VE BEEN ITCHING FOR A SLICE OF BAT-ACTION--AND THIS IS IT!
*DETECTIVE COMICS #359: "THE MILLION-DOLLAR DEBUT OF BATGIRL!"
AS THE BATMOBILE BRAKES TO A STOP, HER REVERIE ENDS...
WE'RE INSIDE THE BAT-CAVE, BATGIRL! READY FOR THAT SURPRISE--?
READY--AND CURIOUS AS CAN BE!
OKAY, BATGIRL--TAKE OFF YOUR BLINDFOLD! YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE MY UNMASKED FACE!
BATMAN, DON'T! HER LIFE--AND YOURS--WON'T BE WORTH A PLUGGED NICKEL IF THE UNDERWORLD KNOWS SHE HAS THAT INFORMATION!
WAIT--WHAT AM I SO WORRIED ABOUT? BATMAN HAS BEEN IN A SPOT LIKE THIS MANY A TIME--AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A DISGUISED FACE UNDER THE MASK! I WONDER WHO HE'S GOING TO BE--THIS TIME?

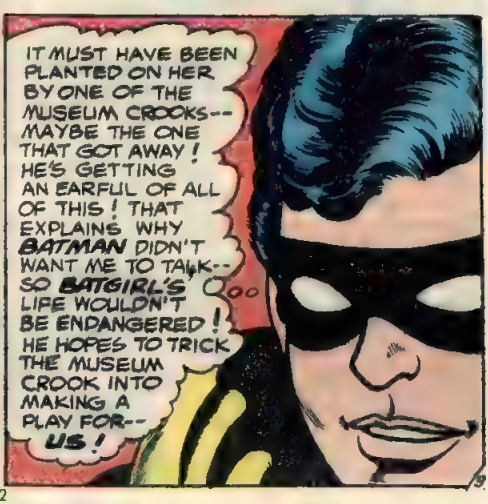
BRUCE WAYNE'S FACE! HE'S REALLY TAKING BATGIRL -- WHOEVER SHE IS-- INTO HIS FULL CONFIDENCE!
YOU!? I--I CAN HARDLY B-BELIEVE IT!

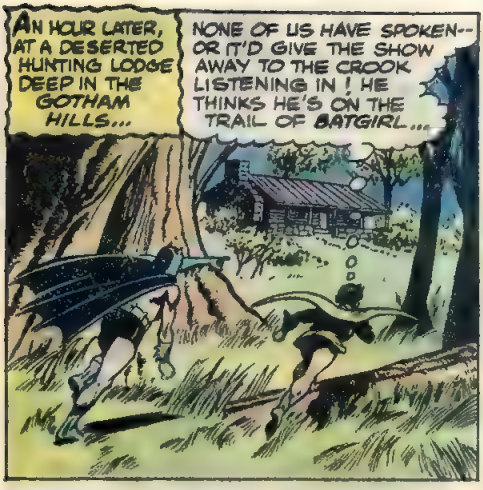
AS A MATTER OF FACT--I DON'T BELIEVE IT! BATMAN WANTS ME TO THINK HE'S BRUCE WAYNE-- ONLY I KNOW HE ISN'T! THOSE TRACES OF WAX ON HIS FACE-- THAT DYE ON HIS HAIR-- SHOWS HE MADE HIMSELF UP TO LOOK LIKE BRUCE WAYNE! B-BUT WHY--?

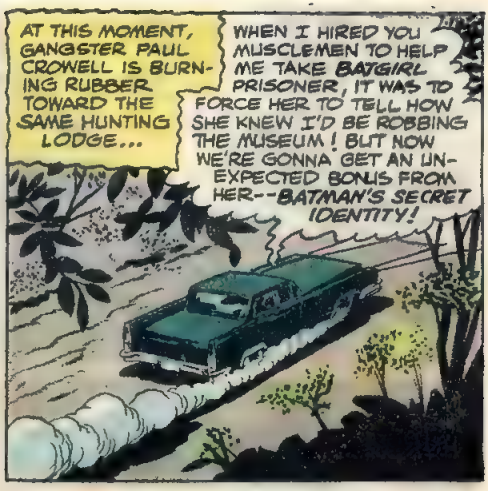

NOW THAT I'VE SHOWN YOU WHO I AM-- HOW ABOUT LETTING ME IN ON YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, BATGIRL?
THAT'D BE TOO EASY FOR YOU, BATMAN! I'D RATHER CHALLENGE YOU TO USE YOUR EXTRAORDINARY DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES TO FIND OUT MY IDENTITY!

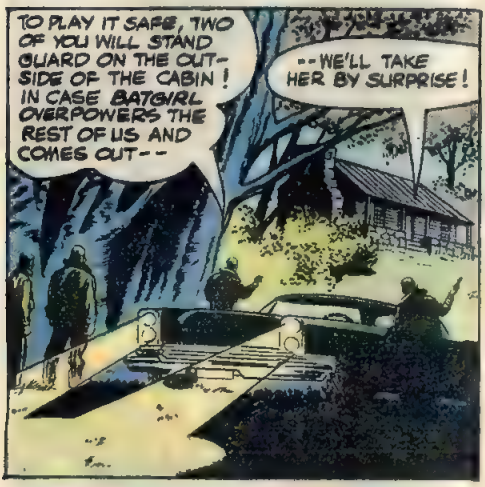

AS BATGIRL ASKS TO BE RETURNED TO THE AMERINDIAN MUSEUM...
BATMAN'S SIGNALING ME NOT TO SPEAK! WHAT HAVE THESE TWO COOKED UP BETWEEN THEM?
BATMAN DIDN'T REVEAL HIS SECRET IDENTITY TO ME, SO WHY SHOULD I REVEAL MINE?

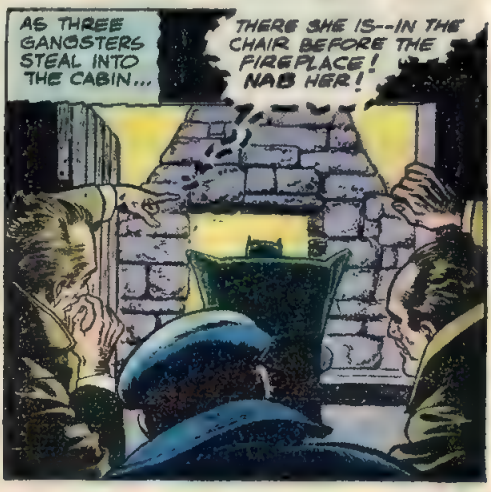

BATMOBILING OUT OF THE CAMOUFLAGED BATCAVE EXIT...
IF BATMAN HAD REALLY WANTED TO TAKE ME INTO HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE, HE'D NEVER HAVE BLINDFOLDED ME TO AND FROM THE BATCAVE! I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THIS DECEPTION TO ITS CONCLUSION...
HUH? BATMAN REMOVING A BUGGING DEVICE ON BATGIRL?


IT MUST HAVE BEEN PLANTED ON HER BY ONE OF THE MUSEUM CROOKS-- MAYBE THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY! HE'S GETTING AN EARFUL OF ALL OF THIS! THAT EXPLAINS WHY BATMAN DIDN'T WANT ME TO TALK-- SO BATGIRL'S LIFE WOULDN'T BE ENDANGERED! HE HOPES TO TRICK THE MUSEUM CROOK INTO MAKING A PLAY FOR-- US!

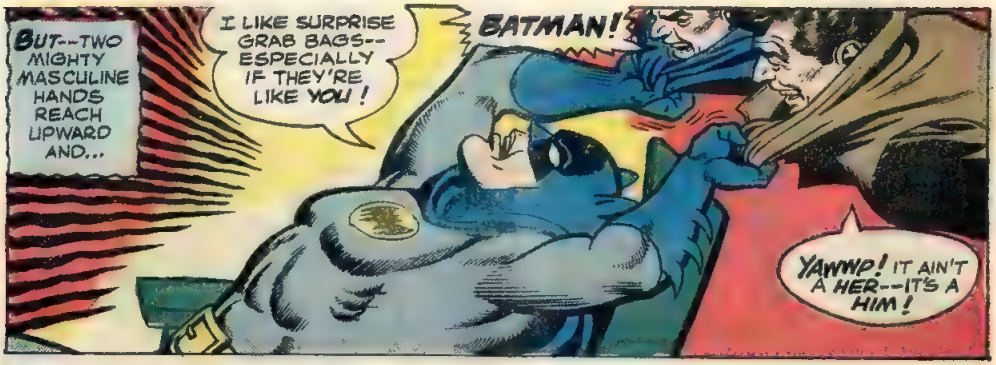

AN HOUR LATER, AT A DESERTED HUNTING LODGE DEEP IN THE GOTHAM HILLS...
NONE OF US HAVE SPOKEN--OR IT'D GIVE THE SHOW AWAY TO THE CROOK LISTENING IN! HE THINKS HE'S ON THE TRAIL OF BATGIRL...

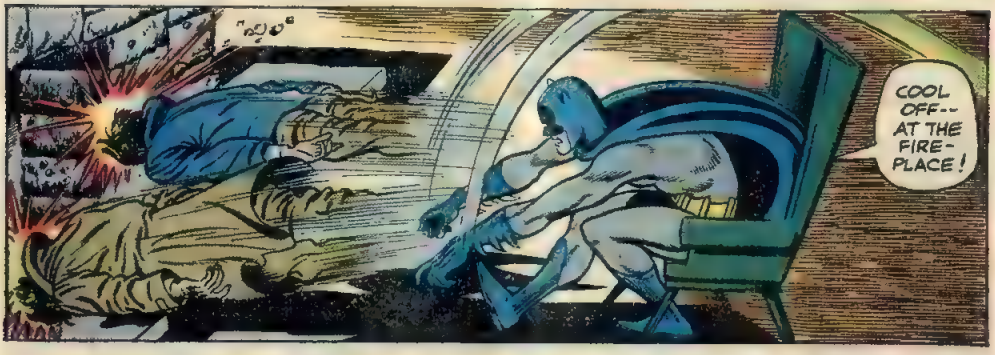

AT THIS MOMENT, GANGSTER PAUL CROWELL IS BURNING RUBBER TOWARD THE SAME HUNTING LODGE...
WHEN I HIRED YOU MUSCLEMEN TO HELP ME TAKE BATGIRL PRISONER, IT WAS TO FORCE HER TO TELL HOW SHE KNEW I'D BE ROBBING THE MUSEUM! BUT NOW WE'RE GONNA GET AN UNEXPECTED BONUS FROM HER--BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!


TO PLAY IT SAFE, TWO OF YOU WILL STAND GUARD ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE CABIN! IN CASE BATGIRL OVERPOWERS THE REST OF US AND COMES OUT--
--WE'LL TAKE HER BY SURPRISE!


AS THREE GANGSTERS STEAL INTO THE CABIN...
THERE SHE IS--IN THE CHAIR BEFORE THE FIREPLACE! NAB HER!

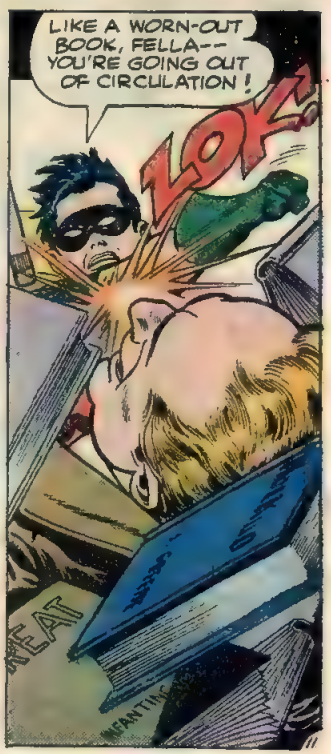
BATGIRL--YOU'RE UP FOR GRABS!

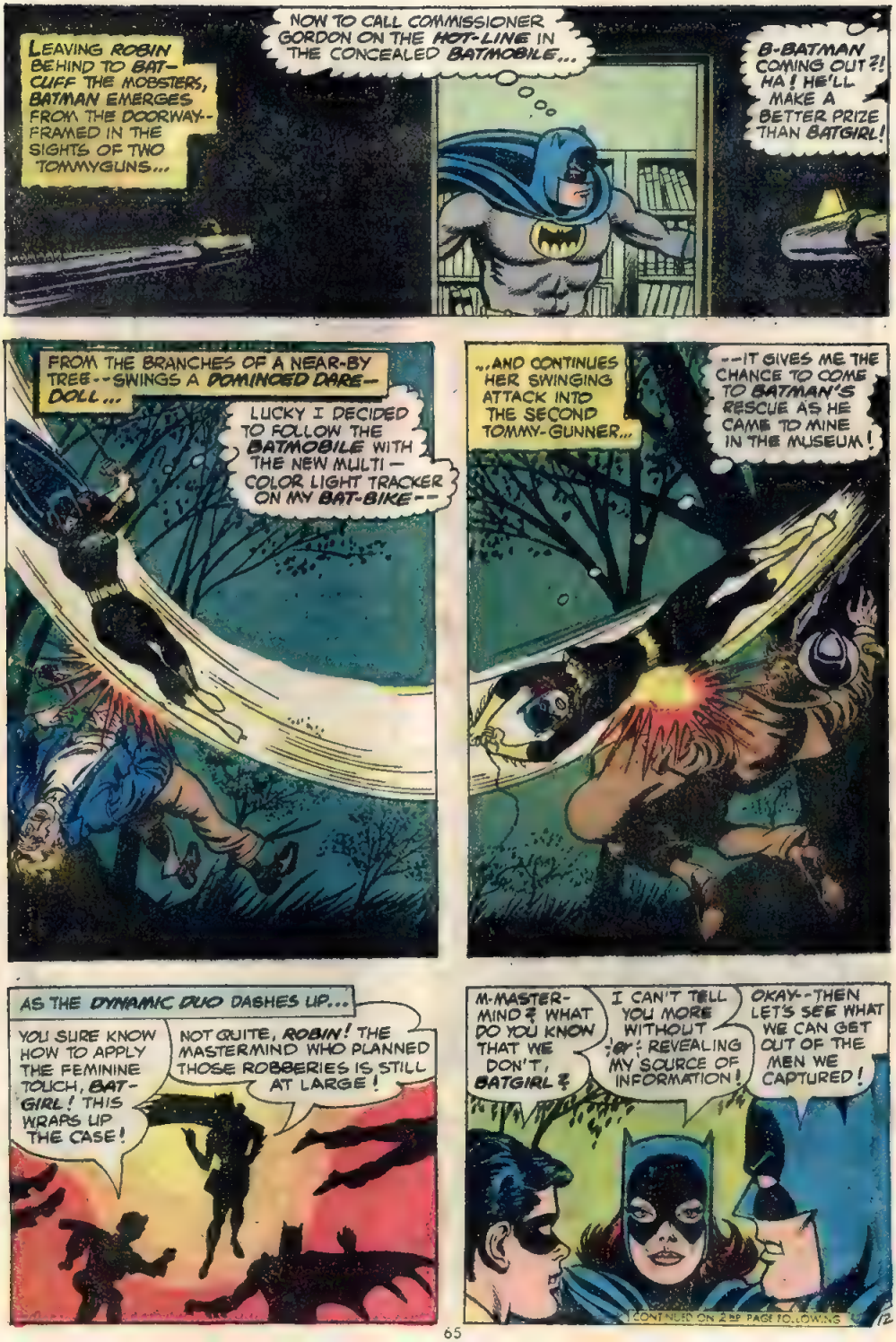

BUT--TWO MIGHTY MASCULINE HANDS REACH UPWARD AND...
I LIKE SURPRISE GRAB BAGS--ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE LIKE YOU!
BATMAN!
YAWWP! IT AIN'T A HER--IT'S A HIM!


COOL OFF--AT THE FIRE-PLACE!

NOW--CROWELL MAKES HIS GUN-PLAY...
BATMAN TRICKED ME! HE SWITCHED THAT BUG I PLANTED ON BATGIRL--TO HIMSELF!

FROM BEHIND A COUCH, THE HIDDEN ROBIN SPRINGS LIKE A BIRD OF PREY...
DON'T FORGET THE FUN-LOVING MEMBER OF THIS CRIME-FIGHTING COMBO--LI'L OL' HAPPY-GO-LUCKY ME!
HUPP!


LIKE A WORN-OUT BOOK, FELLA--YOU'RE GOING OUT OF CIRCULATION!
LOK!


LEAVING ROBIN BEHIND TO BAT-CUFF THE MOBSTERS, BATMAN EMERGES FROM THE DOORWAY--FRAMED IN THE SIGHTS OF TWO TOMMYGUNS...
NOW TO CALL COMMISSIONER GORDON ON THE HOT-LINE IN THE CONCEALED BATMOBILE...
B-BATMAN COMING OUT?! HA! HE'LL MAKE A BETTER PRIZE THAN BATGIRL!
FROM THE BRANCHES OF A NEAR-BY TREE--SWINGS A DOMINOED DARE-DOLL...
LUCKY I DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE BATMOBILE WITH THE NEW MULTI-COLOR LIGHT TRACKER ON MY BAT-BIKE--
..AND CONTINUES HER SWINGING ATTACK INTO THE SECOND TOMMY-GUNNER...
--IT GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO COME TO BATMAN'S RESCUE AS HE CAME TO MINE IN THE MUSEUM!
AS THE DYNAMIC DUO DASHES UP...
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO APPLY THE FEMININE TOUCH, BAT-GIRL! THIS WRAPS UP THE CASE!
NOT QUITE, ROBIN! THE MASTERMIND WHO PLANNED THOSE ROBBERIES IS STILL AT LARGE!
M-MASTER-MIND? WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT WE DON'T, BATGIRL?
I CAN'T TELL YOU MORE WITHOUT REVEALING MY SOURCE OF INFORMATION!
OKAY--THEN LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN GET OUT OF THE MEN WE CAPTURED!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
12

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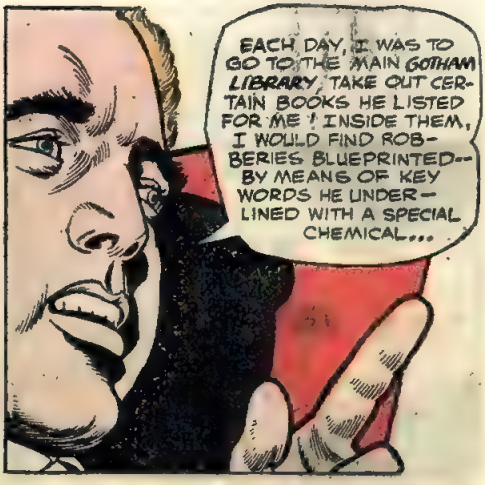
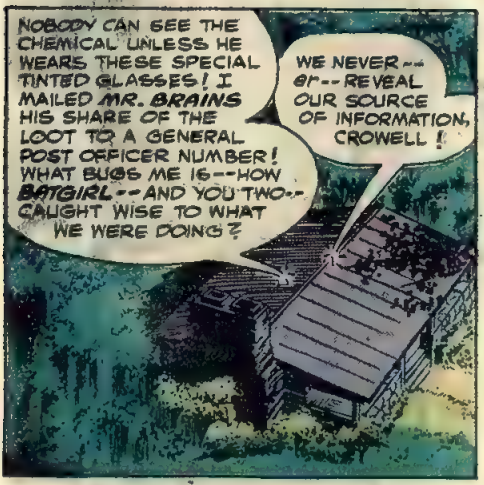
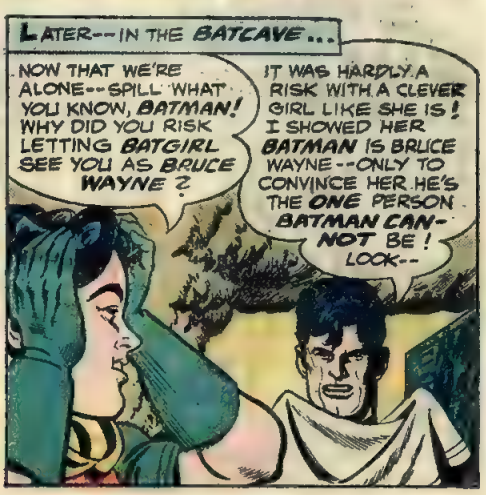
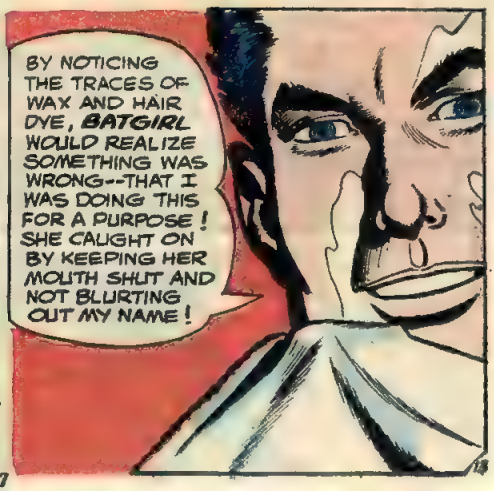
MINUTES LATER, PAUL CROWELL IS POURING OUT HIS STORY...
I'M SPILLING WHAT I KNOW--HOPING THE LAW WILL GO EASIER ON ME! A GUY CALLING HIMSELF "MR. BRAINS" TELEPHONED ME, OFFERING TO MASTERMIND A ROBBERY A DAY FOR ME AND MY GANG! HE SAID HE WOULDN'T CONTACT ME AGAIN! I WAS NEVER TO SEE HIM SO AS TO PROTECT HIS REAL IDENTITY...


EACH DAY, I WAS TO GO TO THE MAIN GOTHAM LIBRARY, TAKE OUT CERTAIN BOOKS HE LISTED FOR ME! INSIDE THEM, I WOULD FIND ROBBERIES BLUEPRINTED--BY MEANS OF KEY WORDS HE UNDERLINED WITH A SPECIAL CHEMICAL...

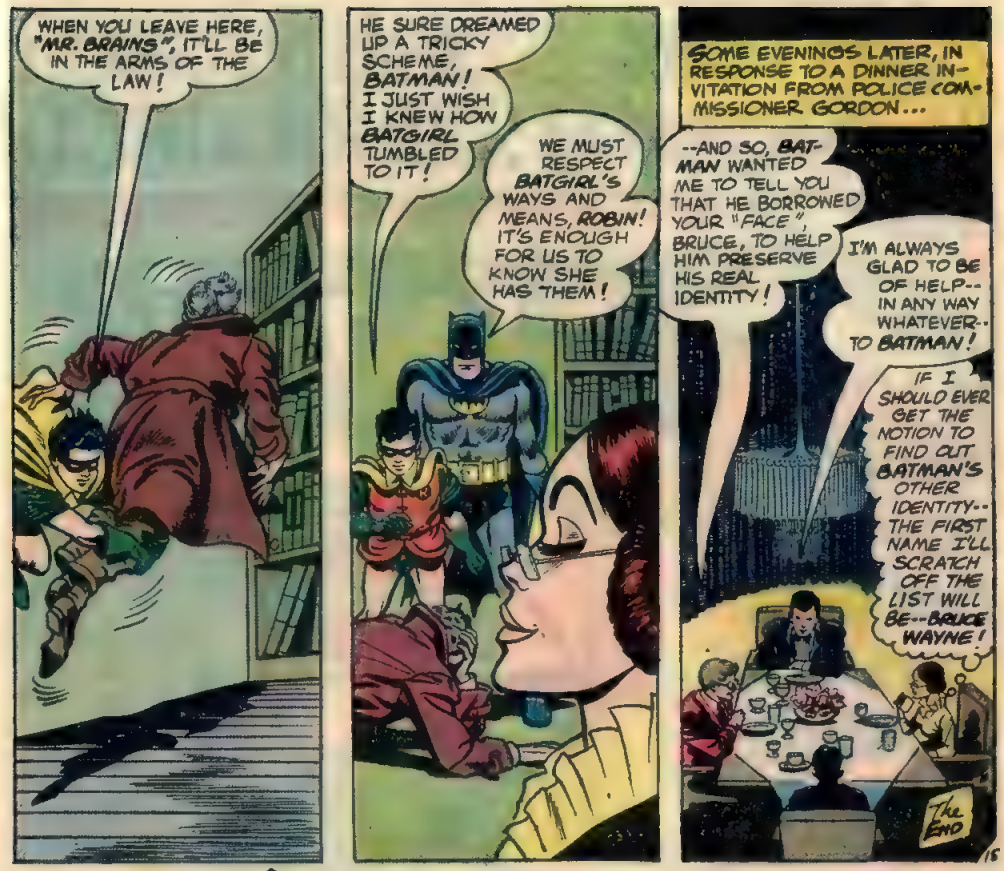

NOBODY CAN SEE THE CHEMICAL UNLESS HE WEARS THESE SPECIAL TINTED GLASSES! I MAILED MR. BRAINS HIS SHARE OF THE LOOT TO A GENERAL POST OFFICER NUMBER! WHAT BUGS ME IS--HOW BATGIRL--AND YOU TWO--CAUGHT WISE TO WHAT WE WERE DOING?
WE NEVER--OR--REVEAL OUR SOURCE OF INFORMATION, CROWELL!

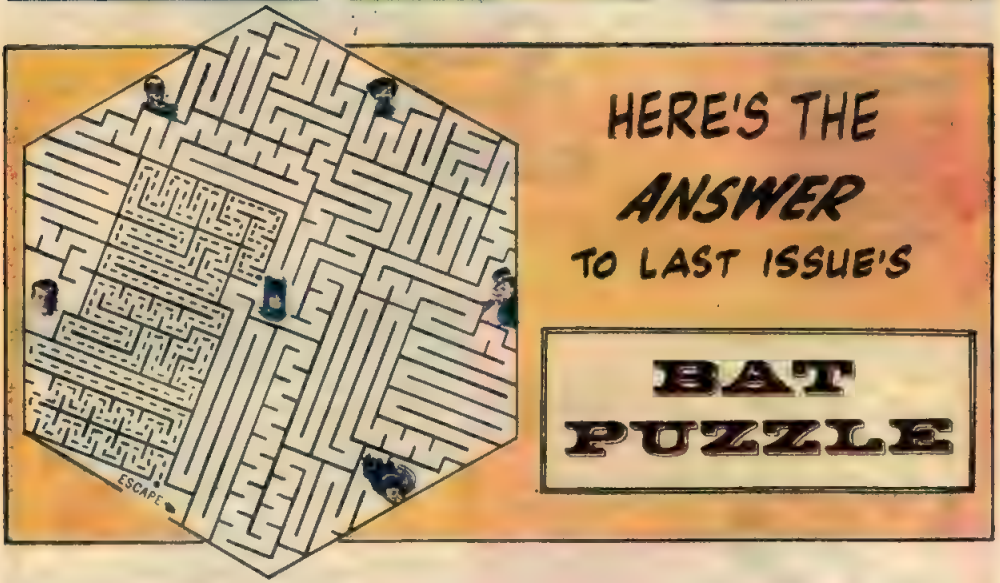

LATER--IN THE BATCAVE...
NOW THAT WE'RE ALONE--SPILL WHAT YOU KNOW, BATMAN! WHY DID YOU RISK LETTING BATGIRL SEE YOU AS BRUCE WAYNE?
IT WAS HARDLY A RISK WITH A CLEVER GIRL LIKE SHE IS! I SHOWED HER BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE--ONLY TO CONVINCE HER HE'S THE ONE PERSON BATMAN CAN-NOT BE! LOOK--

YOU SEE THIS WAX AND HAIR DYE I PUT ON WHEN I LEFT YOU AND BATGIRL IN THE AMERINDIAN MUSEUM TO PHONE THE COMMISSIONER? BATGIRL SAW THEM ALSO! I DISGUISED MYSELF TO LOOK LIKE BRUCE WAYNE BECAUSE I COUNTED ON HER FIGURING IF I WERE REALLY BRUCE WAYNE--I WOULDN'T NEED A DISGUISE!
WOWW! THAT'S PRETTY SMART THINKING--ON BOTH YOUR PARTS!


BY NOTICING THE TRACES OF WAX AND HAIR DYE, BATGIRL WOULD REALIZE SOMETHING WAS WRONG--THAT I WAS DOING THIS FOR A PURPOSE! SHE CAUGHT ON BY KEEPING HER MOUTH SHUT AND NOT BLURTING OUT MY NAME!

AND YOU THINK THAT MYSTERIOUS MASTERMIND WILL SHOW UP AT THE LIBRARY TOMORROW WITH HIS NEXT BOOK-CRIME?
YES, BECAUSE I PERSUADED COMMISSIONER GORDON AND THE PRESS TO HOLD OFF ANNOUNCING OUR CAPTURE OF THE GANG "MR. BRAINS" WORKED THROUGH!
ONE LAST QUESTION! HOW COULD YOU BE SURE THAT CROWELL WOULDN'T FOLLOW US INTO THE BATCAVE WHILE BATGIRL WAS WEARING THE BUGGING DEVICE?
BECAUSE I JAMMED ITS SIGNALS THE SAME WAY WE JAM ANY BUGGING DEVICE ON THE BATMOBILE WHEN WE SUSPECT A "TRACKER" HAS BEEN PUT ON IT! LATER, I SHUT IT OFF SO CROWELL COULD FOLLOW US!
NEXT DAY IN THE GOTHAM CITY LIBRARY...
I'M RETURNING THIS BOOK, MISS!
THIS MAN IS JOHN HART! I'M TO BUZZ MISS GORDON IN HER OFFICE, WHERE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARRANGED TO BE WAITING, AS SOON AS HE APPEARS!
MOON AND SIXPENCE
MAUGHAM
IN ANSWER TO THE CONCEALED BUZZER...
MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK AT THAT "MOON AND SIXPENCE" BOOK? I HAPPEN TO KNOW THERE'S AN EXHIBIT OF RARE BRITISH COINS--INCLUDING SIXPENCE--IN THE AMBASSADOR BUILDING TONIGHT!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
JUST AS I THOUGHT! IT'S ALL LAID OUT HERE--HOW TO STEAL THOSE ENGLISH COINS!
MOON AND SIXPENCE
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY PROVE I HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHATEVER YOU SEE IN THAT BOOK!
WE HAVE NO PROOF, JOHN HART--SO I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF GETTING THIS SEARCH WARRANT! ROBIN AND I ARE GOING TO CHECK YOUR HOME FOR YOUR SHARE OF THE LOOT PAUL CROWELL MAILED YOU...
WARRANT for
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--


WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE, "MR. BRAINS", IT'LL BE IN THE ARMS OF THE LAW!
HE SURE DREAMED UP A TRICKY SCHEME, BATMAN! I JUST WISH I KNEW HOW BATGIRL TUMBLED TO IT!
WE MUST RESPECT BATGIRL'S WAYS AND MEANS, ROBIN! IT'S ENOUGH FOR US TO KNOW SHE HAS THEM!
SOME EVENINGS LATER, IN RESPONSE TO A DINNER INVITATION FROM POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
--AND SO, BATMAN WANTED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE BORROWED YOUR "FACE", BRUCE, TO HELP HIM PRESERVE HIS REAL IDENTITY!
I'M ALWAYS GLAD TO BE OF HELP--IN ANY WAY WHATEVER--TO BATMAN!
IF I SHOULD EVER GET THE NOTION TO FIND OUT BATMAN'S OTHER IDENTITY--THE FIRST NAME I'LL SCRATCH OFF THE LIST WILL BE--BRUCE WAYNE!
THE END
15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ANSWER
TO LAST ISSUE'S
BAT
PUZZLE

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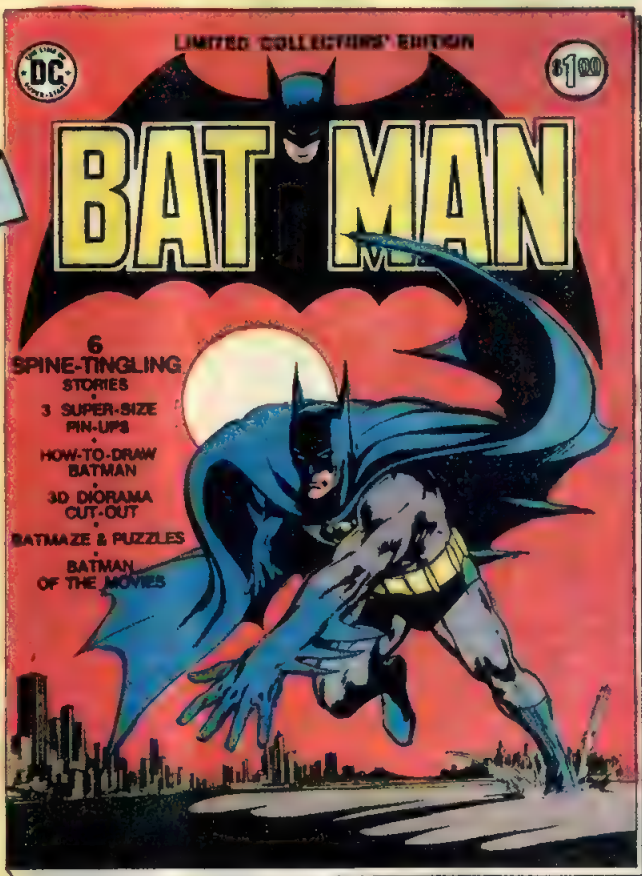

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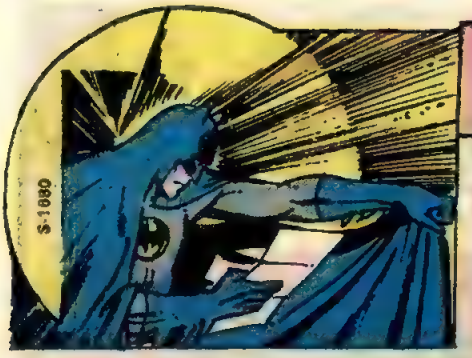


LETTERS to the BATMAN

Dear Editor:

What's with this pretentious *"The Batman"*? Despite a feeble attempt in recent years to bring back the use of the article *"the"*, (1) most fans, villains, and Gotham police commissioners draw the line at using it; (2) Using it sounds ridiculous and stilted; (3) contrary to popular alibi, adding the *"the"* does not enhance *Batman's* standing as "creature of the night".

Semantic soliloquy aside, *Batman* #252 was a qualified success.

The Batman story was excellent. The Spook is an exciting new villain; the concept of "Is he a ghost?", a la *Hawkman's The Ghost*, was brilliantly handled in this new-twist-on-an-old-story. From contemplative inception to suspenseful climax, "The Spook's Master Stroke" moved smoothly, despite an unwarranted fixation with skull caps.

The best aspect of the story was the clever detection on *Batman's* part. The *Caped Crusader* as sleuth *par excellence* has been a neglected aspect of *Batman's* character lately. It was gratifying to see *Batman* in top form again.

I cannot say the same for the *Robin* story, "The King from Canarsie". Our hero was saddled with a pitiful excuse for a threadbare plot holding together a tribute to Danny Kaye, who is evidently somebody's childhood idol.

Some tribute! Mr. "King" was so badly drawn I had to go several pages before I realized he was older than ten.

But all was redeemed by the story-ending scenario: Stale monologues being told as the noble hero rides off into the sunset, to the melodious rhythm of his motorcycle going a Walter Mitty-ish "Ta-Pocketa-Pocketa"...

—JEFF CRAWFORD, Miami, Fla.

(More mail than we'd anticipated—and some of it very strongly opinionated—was garnered by Ish 252's Robin *solo. A "pocketa-ful" of* Robin *ruminations follow, beginning with the PATON-ted, sure-fire way of pleasing a reader evidenced in the next letter.—MP)*

Dear Editor:

Elliot Maggin has produced another classic in a mere seven pages. Obviously a fan of Danny Kaye, he gave a great humanitarian the great tribute he deserves.

By the way, *Robin* better get his cycle's muffler fixed. *Ta-pocketa, pocketa?*

—SCOTT PATON, Ellicott City, Md.

(There's nothing wrong with Robin's *muffler. We confess to being guilty of an "in" gag—"Ta-pocketa, pocketa" was a recurring sound effect in "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty", a 1947 movie starring (who else?)* Danny Kaye!—MP)

Dear Editor:

Just out of wild curiosity, is there any particular reason why Elliot wrote a story about Danny Kaye (besides the fact that Mr. Kaye has brought so much cheer to other parts of the world)?

—STEVE SAVINO, Albuquerque, N.M.

(The best person to answer that question would be Elliot himself. Okay, Mr. Maggoon *(as* JS *would refer to you, during your marathon story-conferences—oops! Printing company secrets on letter pages is a* no-no*)... do your stuff!—MP)*

Dear Julie,

I met Danny Kaye the morning I graduated from Brandeis University, to give a speech that morning on behalf of the Class of 1972 and Kaye was to receive an honorary degree in recognition of all his work on behalf of UNICEF. So I got to sit next to him at breakfast, where I tried to convince him to get up and sing "Tit-Willow" to the graduates. No, he wouldn't do it.

One factor contributing to the strangeness of the day was the fact that I was on crutches with a broken leg. Kaye was supposed to get his *honorary degree* a year before, but he couldn't attend the 1971 commencement because *he* had a broken leg and was in a cast. This time *I* had the broken leg, and I used my left crutch to vault onto the stage when I was called to speak. I was half showing off and half trying to make everyone know that the "crippled kid" wasn't looking for anyone's sympathy. Cute trick—vaulting onstage with a cast on. Showing off was how I broke it in the first place.

As I nervously wobbled limpingly to the podium it struck me that everyone was dead quiet—intimidating, horrible silence that Danny Kaye broke by yelling out, "Go get 'em, Gimpy!"

And I did.

—ELLIOT S! MAGGIN, Forest Hills, N.Y.

(Confidential to the kid from Brooklyn: Leg's all better, thanks. —"Gimpy".)

Dear Editor:

I *love* Frank Robbins' *Batman* stories—and I *hate* them!

I *love* them, simply because they are such *good* stories. I don't know what prompted Mr. Robbins to take a plunge into costumed villains, but his creation, *The Spook*, with the air of mysticism surrounding him, has potential to become as popular and infamous as *The Joker*, and Mr. Robbins deserves accolades for inventing him. "The Spook's Master Stroke" was the best of the trilogy.

I *love* Frank Robbins' *Batman* stories.

I *hate* Frank Robbins' *Batman* stories, because they're usually *too short*. "Master Stroke" was just one of several Robbins efforts that had potential enough for a book-lengther, but was instead crammed into a mere thirteen pages. I was looking forward to a climax in which one of my favorites, *Jason Bard* (a welcome and unexpected guest-star—about time he met *The Batman!*), would team up with *The Batman* to capture The Spook. The "electrifying" climax was good—but it would have been better if Jason Bard had a hand in it, too.

I respectfully request more *Robbins-Batman-Spook* stories. And *longer* ones, too!

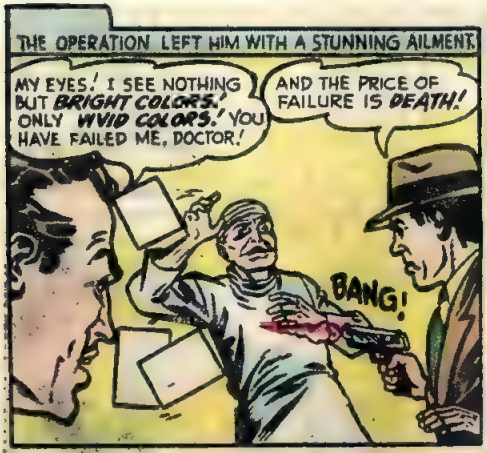
—MIKE W. BARR, Akron, Ohio

(SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find a page-ful of "EXTRA Letters to the Batman"—featuring your comments on Batman *#253!)*

BET YOU THOUGHT I'D FORGOTTEN A CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBER, DIDN'T YOU? NO...HERE HE IS, WITH ONE OF HIS SPECIAL SOLO CASES!
RIGHT, BATMAN! IT WAS THE BOY COMMANDOS WHO FIRST FOUGHT... AND DEFEATED...THE COLORFUL CRIMINAL, CRAZY QUILT! LATER, I HAD TO TAKE HIM ON...WITHOUT BATMAN'S HELP!
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
ONE MORE STEP AND I FIRE, ROBIN! YOU'LL MEET YOUR DOOM IN COLOR!
FROM A FORCED RETIREMENT BEHIND THE GRAY WALLS OF A PRISON STEPS THE MOST BIZARRE, MOST COLORFUL VILLAIN IN THE ANNALS OF CRIME--CRAZY-QUILT! YES, ONCE AGAIN LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS TREMBLE BEFORE THE EVIL ONSLAUGHTS OF THIS RENEGADE OF THE RAINBOW! AND AS HIS MIND TURNS, LIKE SOME CRIMINAL KALEIDOSCOPE, IT EVOLVES ONE OF THE MOST SINISTER SCHEMES EVER DREAMED OF BY A HUMAN TO ELIMINATE THAT BLOCK IN HIS PATH OF PLUNDER--ROBIN! YOU'LL EXPERIENCE SOMETHING BRAND-NEW --A DAZZLING ARRAY OF THRILLS IN TECHNICOLOR--WHEN...
CRAZY-QUILT Comes Back!
STORY: FRANCE E. HERRON
ART: JIM MOONEY
IN ALL THE DRAB EXPANSE OF A GREAT PRISON NEAR GOTHAM CITY, THERE IS JUST ONE OASIS OF BRILLIANT COLOR! AND HERE IT IS THAT WE FIND A STRANGE PRISONER KNOWN TO THE UNDERWORLD AS CRAZY-QUILT...
SINCE I CAN SEE ONLY BRIGHT COLORS, THIS JOB IN THE PRISON LICENSE-PLATE PLANT IS THE ONLY ONE I CAN DO. AND WHAT A CHANCE IT GIVES ME TO WORK AN ESCAPE--AN ESCAPE INVOLVING COLOR!
©1951 by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC.

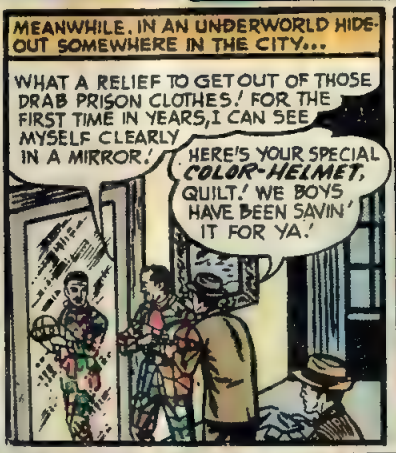
LATER, AS THE PRISONERS MARCH TO THE MESS HALL...
EACH DAY FOR AN ENTIRE WINTER I'VE SMEARED A BIT OF COLORED PAINT FROM MY HAND ONTO THE BLADES OF THIS MESS HALL VENTILATING FAN. SOON THE WEATHER WILL BE WARM ENOUGH FOR THEM TO TURN ON THE FAN AND THEN... HA, HA... WE SHALL SEE!
AND SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER, AS THE PRISONERS ASSEMBLE FOR THE MIDDAY MEAL...
IT WORKED! THE FAN'S ON FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY, AND MY WINTER'S LABOR HAS PAID OFF--THE SPINNING FAN FORMS A HUGE COLOR WHEEL!
MY VAST KNOWLEDGE OF COLORS ENABLED ME TO CHOOSE THOSE WHICH HAVE A STRANGE EFFECT ON MEN'S MINDS! AS THE FAN SPINS, THOSE WHO SEE IT ARE HELD--HYPNOTIZED! NOW COLOR WILL HELP ME ESCAPE!
SOON, THE SIRENS' SCREAM AND THE RADIO WARNS THAT A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL IS LOOSE. IN THE LUXURIOUS HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...
...THE CONVICT QUILT IS BELIEVED HEADED FOR GOTHAM CITY...
QUILT! QUILT! I SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT NAME! BETTER CHECK THE FILES IN THE BAT-CAVE!
A MOMENT LATER, DICK GRAYSON HAS SWITCHED TO ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! AND IN THE BAT-CAVE FAR BELOW THE HOUSE...
AH! HERE'S HIS CARD! CRAZY-QUILT! NOW I REMEMBER HIM! LETS SEE, HERE'S HIS CASE HISTORY!
CRAZY-QUILT NOTED FOR COLOR CRIMES
HT. 5'11"
WT. 172
AGE 43
QUILT, FAMED ARTIST TURNED GANG CHIEF, SHOT BY RIVAL GANGSTER...
BANG!
I WARNED YOU, QUILT! BUT YOU WOULDN'T STAY CLEAR OF MY RACKET!
BANG!
SHOT DAMAGED HIS EYESIGHT AND HE SEARCHED THE WORLD FOR A DOCTOR WHO COULD HELP HIM...
HE'S TRIED ALL THE OTHER EXPERTS, DOC! YOU BETTER GET HIS EYESIGHT BACK--OR ELSE!
I'M NO MAGICIAN, BUT I'LL TRY!

CRAZY-QUILT COMES BACK

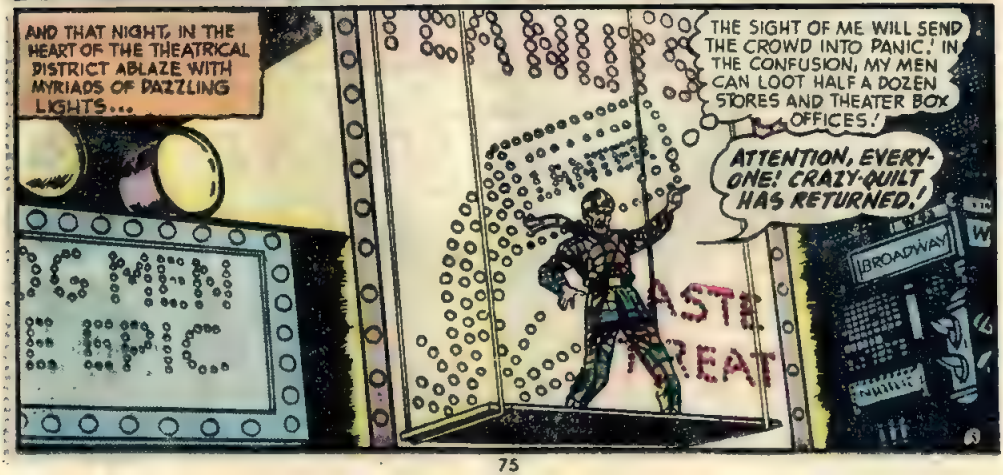

THE OPERATION LEFT HIM WITH A STUNNING AILMENT.
MY EYES! I SEE NOTHING BUT BRIGHT COLORS! ONLY VIVID COLORS! YOU HAVE FAILED ME, DOCTOR!
AND THE PRICE OF FAILURE IS DEATH!
BANG!

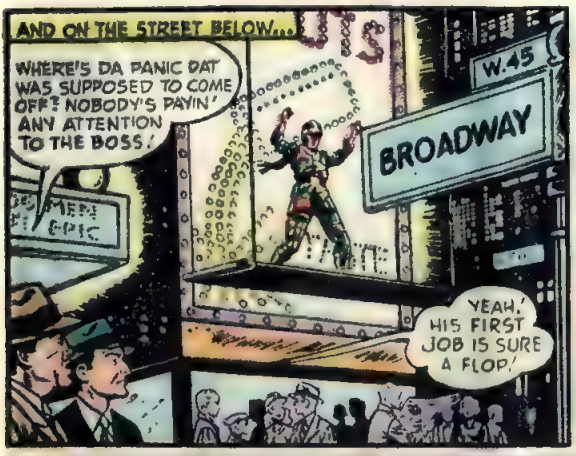
THIS GANGSTER THEN BECAME WORLD-FAMOUS AS CRAZY-QUILT, MAD MAESTRO OF COLOR CRIMES...
HA! MY MEN PAINT THE PLACES I'VE MARKED FOR PLUNDER WITH BRILLIANT COLORS SO I CAN SPOT THEM! THIS JEWELRY STORE PAID OFF BIG!
JEWELE

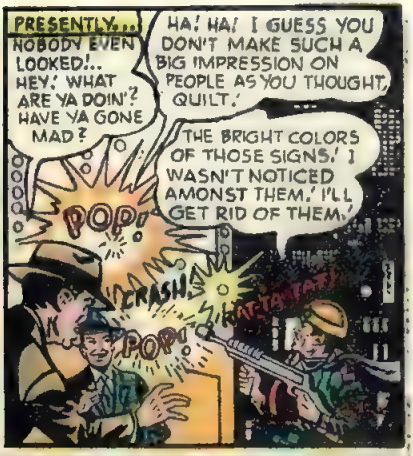
SO THIS IS THE MAN WHO'S ESCAPED FROM JAIL AND IS HEADED FOR GOTHAM CITY! AND BATMAN IS OUT OF TOWN! THAT MEANS I MAY HAVE TO TACKLE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS ALONE!


MEANWHILE, IN AN UNDERWORLD HIDE-OUT SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY...
WHAT A RELIEF TO GET OUT OF THOSE DRAB PRISON CLOTHES! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, I CAN SEE MYSELF CLEARLY IN A MIRROR!
HERE'S YOUR SPECIAL COLOR-HELMET, QUILT! WE BOYS HAVE BEEN SAVIN' IT FOR YA!

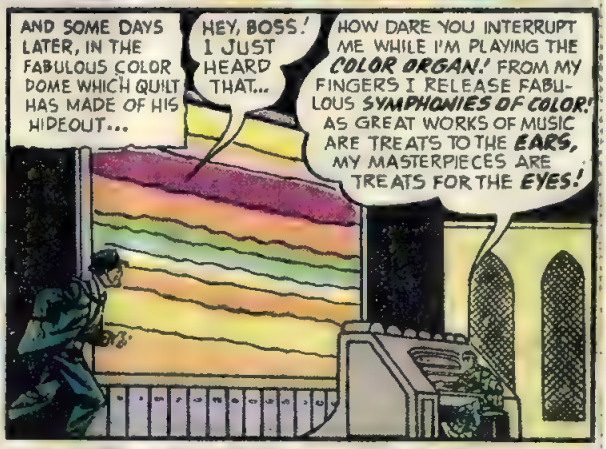
AH! IT STILL WORKS! THE REFLECTED BRIGHT COLORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEE ALL OF YOU CLEARLY! NOW TO RESUME MY COLORFUL CAREER!


AND THAT NIGHT, IN THE HEART OF THE THEATRICAL DISTRICT ABLAZE WITH MYRIADS OF DAZZLING LIGHTS...
THE SIGHT OF ME WILL SEND THE CROWD INTO PANIC! IN THE CONFUSION, MY MEN CAN LOOT HALF A DOZEN STORES AND THEATER BOX OFFICES!
ATTENTION, EVERYONE! CRAZY-QUILT HAS RETURNED!
BROADWAY

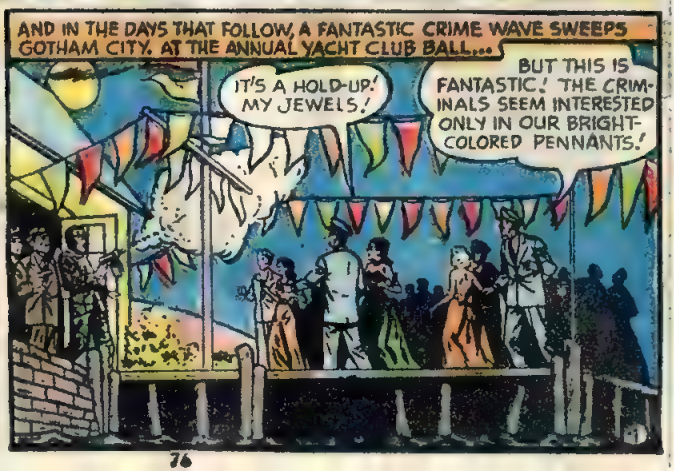

AND ON THE STREET BELOW...
WHERE'S DA PANIC DAT WAS SUPPOSED TO COME OFF? NOBODY'S PAYIN' ANY ATTENTION TO THE BOSS!
W.45
BROADWAY
YEAH, HIS FIRST JOB IS SURE A FLOP!


PRESENTLY... NOBODY EVEN LOOKED!.. HEY! WHAT ARE YA DOIN'? HAVE YA GONE MAD?
HA! HA! I GUESS YOU DON'T MAKE SUCH A BIG IMPRESSION ON PEOPLE AS YOU THOUGHT, QUILT!
THE BRIGHT COLORS OF THOSE SIGNS! I WASN'T NOTICED AMONST THEM! I'LL GET RID OF THEM!
POP!
CRASH!
POP!
RAT-TAT-TAT!

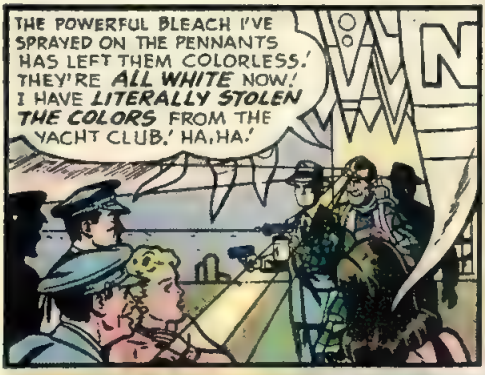
OUT! OUT! I AM THE MASTER OF COLOR! NONE OTHER SHALL CHALLENGE MY BRILLIANCE!
BOSS! QUICK! THE COPS HEARD ALL THIS RACKET YOU'RE MAKIN'! THEY'LL SEND YOU BACK TO THE COOLER IF THEY FIND YOU! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
CRASH!

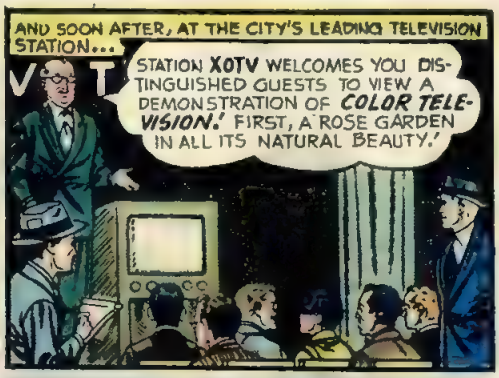

AND SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE FABULOUS COLOR DOME WHICH QUILT HAS MADE OF HIS HIDEOUT...
HEY, BOSS! I JUST HEARD THAT...
HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT ME WHILE I'M PLAYING THE COLOR ORGAN! FROM MY FINGERS I RELEASE FABULOUS SYMPHONIES OF COLOR! AS GREAT WORKS OF MUSIC ARE TREATS TO THE EARS, MY MASTERPIECES ARE TREATS FOR THE EYES!

AND WHILE SEATED HERE AT THE COLOR ORGAN, I PLAN MY FABULOUS COLOR CRIMES! DESTROYING THOSE SIGN LIGHTS HAS GIVEN ME A SENSATIONAL IDEA! I SHALL STEAL ALL THE COLOR IN GOTHAM CITY! LISTEN, MEN...

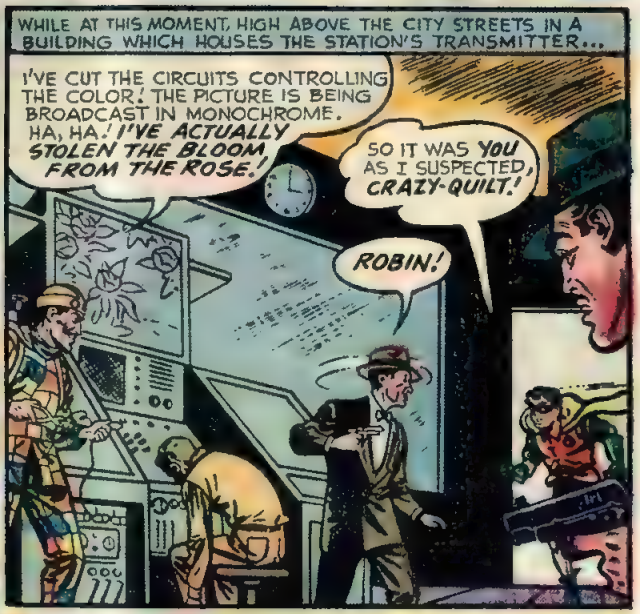

AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, A FANTASTIC CRIME WAVE SWEEPS GOTHAM CITY. AT THE ANNUAL YACHT CLUB BALL...
IT'S A HOLD-UP! MY JEWELS!
BUT THIS IS FANTASTIC! THE CRIMINALS SEEM INTERESTED ONLY IN OUR BRIGHT-COLORED PENNANTS!

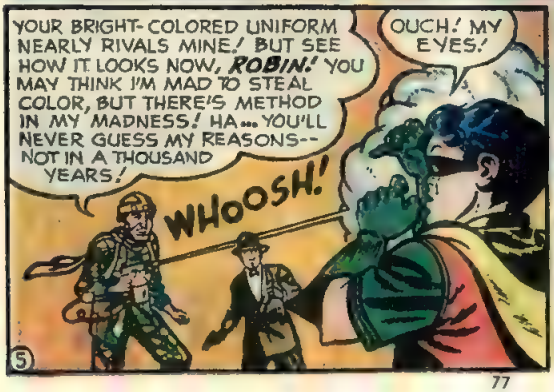
CRAZY-QUILT COMES BACK

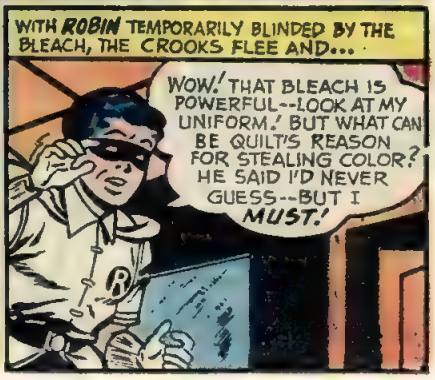

THE POWERFUL BLEACH I'VE SPRAYED ON THE PENNANTS HAS LEFT THEM COLORLESS! THEY'RE ALL WHITE NOW! I HAVE LITERALLY STOLEN THE COLORS FROM THE YACHT CLUB! HA,HA!


AND SOON AFTER, AT THE CITY'S LEADING TELEVISION STATION...
STATION XOTV WELCOMES YOU DISTINGUISHED GUESTS TO VIEW A DEMONSTRATION OF COLOR TELEVISION! FIRST, A ROSE GARDEN IN ALL ITS NATURAL BEAUTY!

BUT AS THE PICTURE FILLS THE SCREEN, THE AUDIENCE IS SHOCKED TO SEE...
HEY, LOOK! AFTER THE BIG BUILD-UP, THE PICTURE'S IN BLACK AND WHITE!
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! SOMETHING WENT WRONG!
HMM... I WONDER IF IT COULD BE ...?

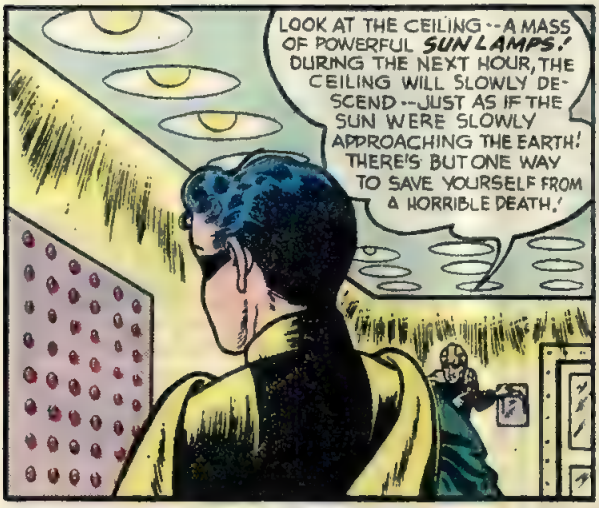

WHILE AT THIS MOMENT, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY STREETS IN A BUILDING WHICH HOUSES THE STATION'S TRANSMITTER...
I'VE CUT THE CIRCUITS CONTROLLING THE COLOR! THE PICTURE IS BEING BROADCAST IN MONOCHROME. HA, HA! I'VE ACTUALLY STOLEN THE BLOOM FROM THE ROSE!
SO IT WAS YOU AS I SUSPECTED, CRAZY-QUILT!
ROBIN!

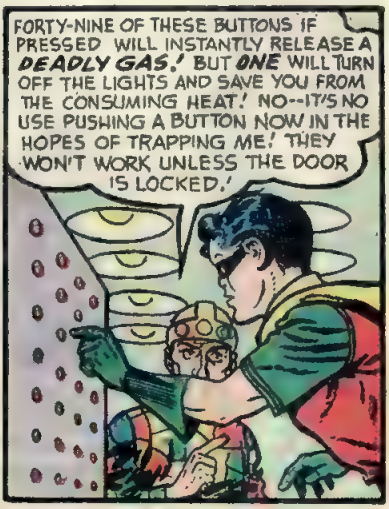

YOUR BRIGHT-COLORED UNIFORM NEARLY RIVALS MINE! BUT SEE HOW IT LOOKS NOW, ROBIN! YOU MAY THINK I'M MAD TO STEAL COLOR, BUT THERE'S METHOD IN MY MADNESS! HA... YOU'LL NEVER GUESS MY REASONS--NOT IN A THOUSAND YEARS!
OUCH! MY EYES!
WHOOSH!
5

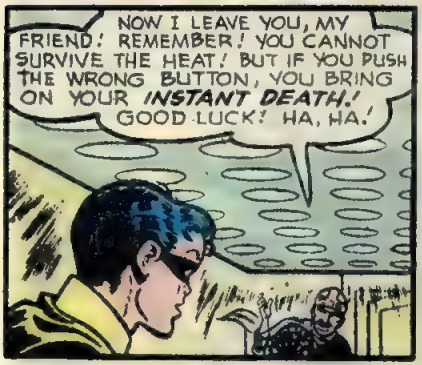

WITH ROBIN TEMPORARILY BLINDED BY THE BLEACH, THE CROOKS FLEE AND...
WOW! THAT BLEACH IS POWERFUL--LOOK AT MY UNIFORM! BUT WHAT CAN BE QUILT'S REASON FOR STEALING COLOR? HE SAID I'D NEVER GUESS--BUT I MUST!

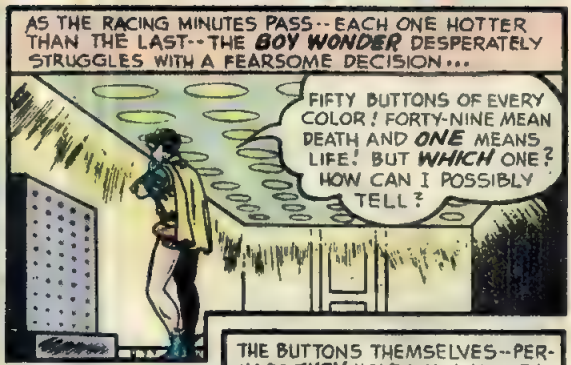
NEXT DAY, IN THE GOTHAM ART MUSEUM...
WAIT TILL THE MUSEUM AUTHORITIES LEARN THAT I'VE STOLEN THE COLOR FROM THREE PAINTINGS BY THAT MASTER OF VIVID COLOR, GAUGUIN!
HURRY UP, QUILT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE GUARDS DISCOVER WHAT YOU'VE DONE! EVERY DOOR IS GUARDED, YOU KNOW!
AND SOON AFTER...
RUINED! COMPLETELY RUINED! THREE WORKS BY ONE OF THE GREATEST ARTISTS OF ALL TIME! WHO BUT A MADMAN WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
THIS HAS ALL THE MARKS OF A JOB BY CRAZY-QUILT, MR. SAUNDERS! I RUSHED RIGHT OVER AS SOON AS I HEARD THE REPORT ON THE POLICE RADIO!
I'M GLAD YOU CAME, ROBIN! WE MUST ORGANIZE A GUARD FOR THE OTHER VALUABLES IN CASE QUILT RETURNS! FOR EXAMPLE, THIS ANCIENT TAPESTRY IS FAMOUS FOR ITS COLORS--IT COULD BE HIS NEXT OBJECTIVE!
I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO HELP GUARD THE MUSEUM'S TREASURES, SIR!
LATER, ROBIN PONDERS A PROBLEM AS HE BUSIES HIMSELF IN THE BAT-CAVE'S TROPHY ROOM...
STILL NO CLUE TO QUILT'S MOTIVE. ANYWAY, THIS UNIFORM OF MINE THAT HE TURNED WHITE WILL MAKE AN INTERESTING TROPHY! UMPH! IT'S TOO SMALL TO FIT THIS LIFE-SIZE DUMMY OF ME! WAIT! THAT MAY BE THE ANSWER! I BELIEVE I'VE DISCOVERED QUILT'S MOTIVE!
DISCOVERED QUILT'S MOTIVE BECAUSE THE WHITE UNIFORM IS TOO SMALL FOR A LIFE-SIZE DUMMY? WHAT DOES ROBIN MEAN? CAN YOU GUESS?
THAT NIGHT, IN THE MUSEUM'S DARK, CAVERNOUS BASEMENT...
THE PAINTINGS WHICH QUILT BLEACHED WERE MOVED DOWN INTO THE CELLER UNTIL... UGHH!
SOMETIME LATER, AS THE BOY WONDER OPENS HIS EYES TO UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS...
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
SO YOU GUESSED THE ANSWER TO MY COLOR THEFTS AFTER ALL! TOO BAD, KID! NOW I MUST SILENCE YOU FOREVER! AND WHAT A WAY I'VE DEVISED TO DO IT-- WITH COLOR, NATURALLY!

CRAZY-QUILT COMES BACK

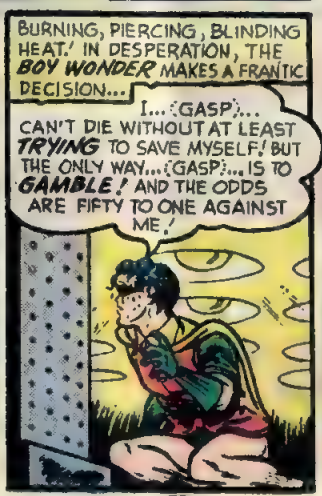

LOOK AT THE CEILING--A MASS OF POWERFUL SUN LAMPS! DURING THE NEXT HOUR, THE CEILING WILL SLOWLY DESCEND--JUST AS IF THE SUN WERE SLOWLY APPROACHING THE EARTH! THERE'S BUT ONE WAY TO SAVE YOURSELF FROM A HORRIBLE DEATH.'

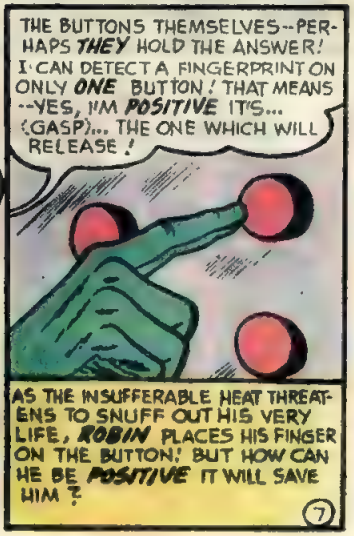

FORTY-NINE OF THESE BUTTONS IF PRESSED WILL INSTANTLY RELEASE A DEADLY GAS.' BUT ONE WILL TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AND SAVE YOU FROM THE CONSUMING HEAT.' NO--IT'S NO USE PUSHING A BUTTON NOW IN THE HOPES OF TRAPPING ME.' THEY WON'T WORK UNLESS THE DOOR IS LOCKED.'

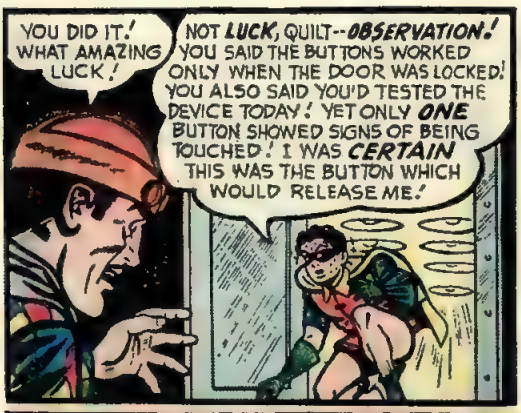

NOW I LEAVE YOU, MY FRIEND.' REMEMBER.' YOU CANNOT SURVIVE THE HEAT.' BUT IF YOU PUSH THE WRONG BUTTON, YOU BRING ON YOUR INSTANT DEATH.' GOOD LUCK.' HA, HA.'


AS THE RACING MINUTES PASS--EACH ONE HOTTER THAN THE LAST--THE BOY WONDER DESPERATELY STRUGGLES WITH A FEARSOME DECISION...
FIFTY BUTTONS OF EVERY COLOR.' FORTY-NINE MEAN DEATH AND ONE MEANS LIFE.' BUT WHICH ONE? HOW CAN I POSSIBLY TELL?

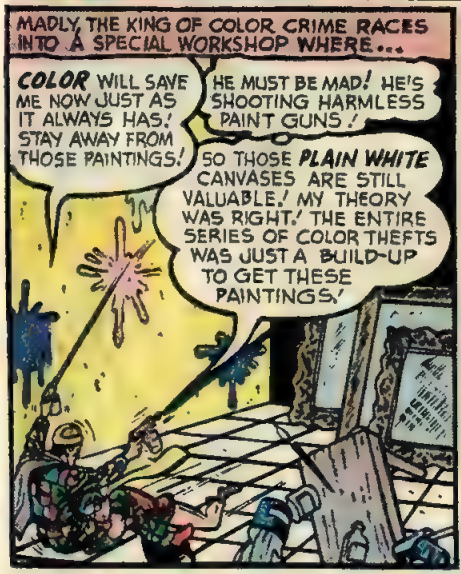
BUT TIME BRINGS NO SOLUTION TO THE FRANTIC DILEMMA FACED BY THE TRAPPED BOY...
THE HEAT.' CAN'T STAND IT MUCH LONGER.' IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME WAY. NO.' MUSTN'T WASTE MY REMAINING STRENGTH ON THIS DOOR--IT'S SOLID STEEL.'

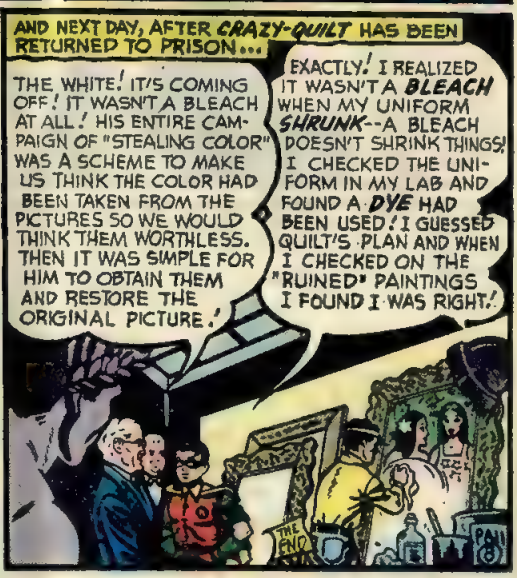

BURNING, PIERCING, BLINDING HEAT.' IN DESPERATION, THE BOY WONDER MAKES A FRANTIC DECISION...
I...(GASP)... CAN'T DIE WITHOUT AT LEAST TRYING TO SAVE MYSELF.' BUT THE ONLY WAY...(GASP)...IS TO GAMBLE.' AND THE ODDS ARE FIFTY TO ONE AGAINST ME.'

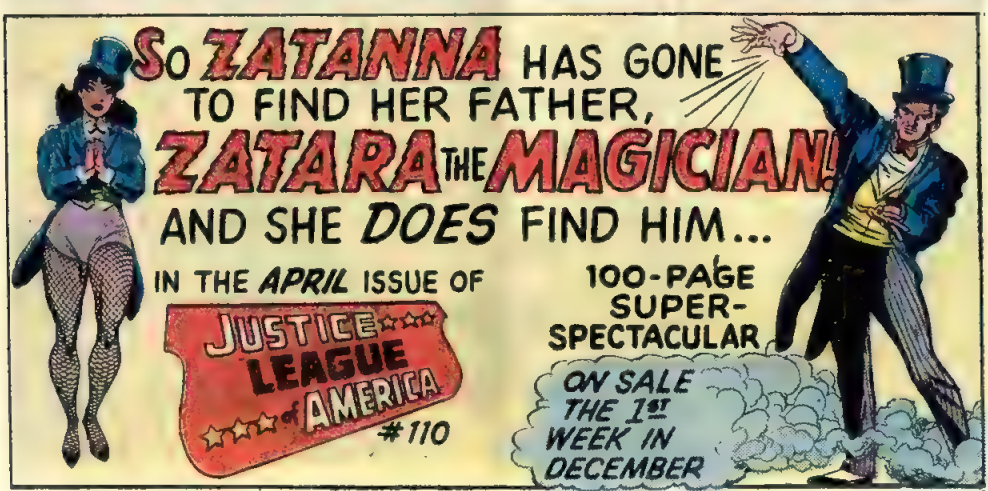

THE BUTTONS THEMSELVES--PERHAPS THEY HOLD THE ANSWER.' I CAN DETECT A FINGERPRINT ON ONLY ONE BUTTON.' THAT MEANS --YES, I'M POSITIVE IT'S... (GASP)... THE ONE WHICH WILL RELEASE.'
AS THE INSUFFERABLE HEAT THREATENS TO SNUFF OUT HIS VERY LIFE, ROBIN PLACES HIS FINGER ON THE BUTTON.' BUT HOW CAN HE BE POSITIVE IT WILL SAVE HIM?
7


YOU DID IT! WHAT AMAZING LUCK!
NOT LUCK, QUILT--OBSERVATION! YOU SAID THE BUTTONS WORKED ONLY WHEN THE DOOR WAS LOCKED! YOU ALSO SAID YOU'D TESTED THE DEVICE TODAY! YET ONLY ONE BUTTON SHOWED SIGNS OF BEING TOUCHED! I WAS CERTAIN THIS WAS THE BUTTON WHICH WOULD RELEASE ME!

IF YOU'D TESTED ONE OF THE DEADLY BUTTONS, WHILE WEARING A GAS MASK, YOU'D HAVE HAD TO PUSH ANOTHER BUTTON TO OPEN THE DOOR WHEN YOU WERE FINISHED. THUS, TWO BUTTONS WOULD HAVE SHOWN FINGERPRINTS!
YOU'RE FREE! BUT I STILL HAVE A FORTUNE IN PAINTINGS!

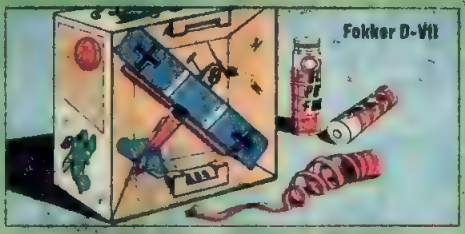

MADLY, THE KING OF COLOR CRIME RACES INTO A SPECIAL WORKSHOP WHERE...
COLOR WILL SAVE ME NOW JUST AS IT ALWAYS HAS! STAY AWAY FROM THOSE PAINTINGS!
HE MUST BE MAD! HE'S SHOOTING HARMLESS PAINT GUNS!
SO THOSE PLAIN WHITE CANVASES ARE STILL VALUABLE! MY THEORY WAS RIGHT! THE ENTIRE SERIES OF COLOR THEFTS WAS JUST A BUILD-UP TO GET THESE PAINTINGS!


AND NEXT DAY, AFTER CRAZY-QUILT HAS BEEN RETURNED TO PRISON...
THE WHITE! IT'S COMING OFF! IT WASN'T A BLEACH AT ALL! HIS ENTIRE CAMPAIGN OF "STEALING COLOR" WAS A SCHEME TO MAKE US THINK THE COLOR HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE PICTURES SO WE WOULD THINK THEM WORTHLESS. THEN IT WAS SIMPLE FOR HIM TO OBTAIN THEM AND RESTORE THE ORIGINAL PICTURE!
EXACTLY! I REALIZED IT WASN'T A BLEACH WHEN MY UNIFORM SHRUNK--A BLEACH DOESN'T SHRINK THINGS! I CHECKED THE UNIFORM IN MY LAB AND FOUND A DYE HAD BEEN USED! I GUESSED QUILT'S PLAN AND WHEN I CHECKED ON THE "RUINED" PAINTINGS I FOUND I WAS RIGHT!
THE END


SO ZATANNA HAS GONE TO FIND HER FATHER, ZATARA THE MAGICIAN! AND SHE DOES FIND HIM...
IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF
JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA #110
100-PAGE SUPER-SPECTACULAR
ON SALE THE 1st WEEK IN DECEMBER

GOT'CHA !

Fly and win with a ready-to-fly Cox Early Bird, Fokker D-VII, Sopwith Camel, Fokker Triplane.



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THAT DOES IT FOR THE FAMILY ALBUM THIS TIME...BUT I STILL HAVE ONE MORE STORY! YOU RECALL THAT MYSTERY VILLAIN, THE ***OUTSIDER***, WHO ***STOLE*** FROM ***ME***, AND EVEN SICKED A ***WITCH*** ON ME? WELL, THE ***NEXT*** TIME I MET HIM, WE HAD ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING DUELS OF ALL TIME! ***ROBIN*** AND I HAD TO BATTLE ***OUR OWN EQUIPMENT!*** HERE'S THE TALE, JUST AS IT HAPPENED! THEN STAND BY FOR A PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

FIRST HE ROBBED ***BATMAN*** OF HIS MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS! NEXT HE STOLE HIS VERY SENSES! NOW, IN HIS LATEST ATTACK, HE TRANSFORMS THE ***COWLED CRUSADER'S*** WEAPONS INTO DEADLY ENEMIES! WHO IS "HE"? ***THE OUTSIDER***--THE UNKNOWN EERIE FOE ***BATMAN*** HAS NEVER EVEN LAID EYES ON!

the OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN!

STORY: GARDNER FOX

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE ME FROM THIS DIABOLICAL ATTACK BY THE OBJECTS IN THE ***BATCAVE***--IS MY OWN ***BATMAN*** UNIFORM!

BOB KANE

N-812

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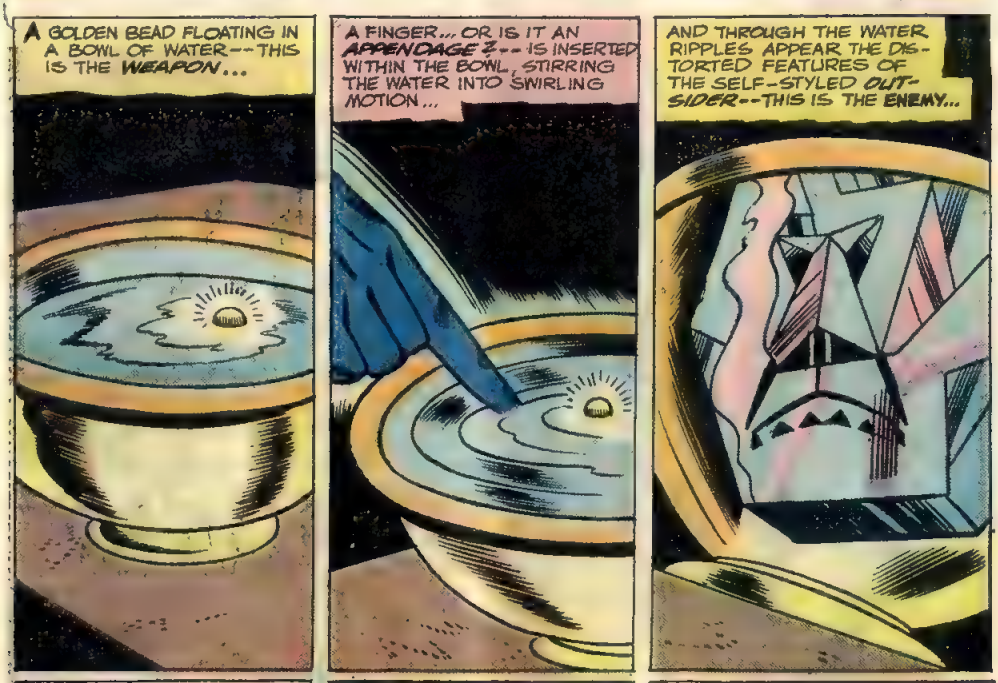
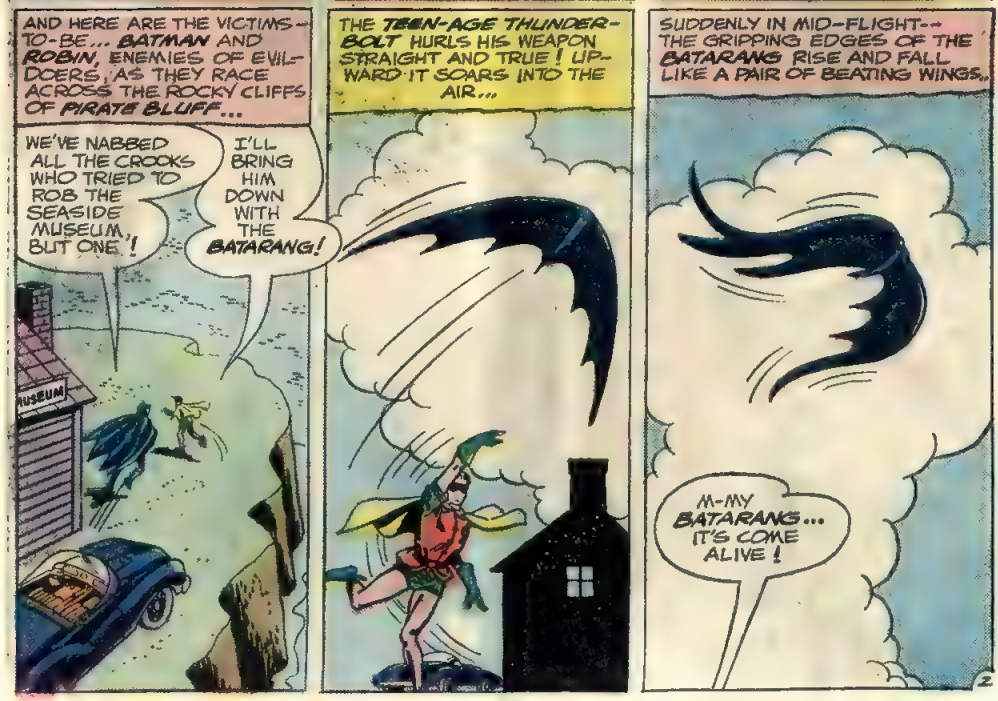
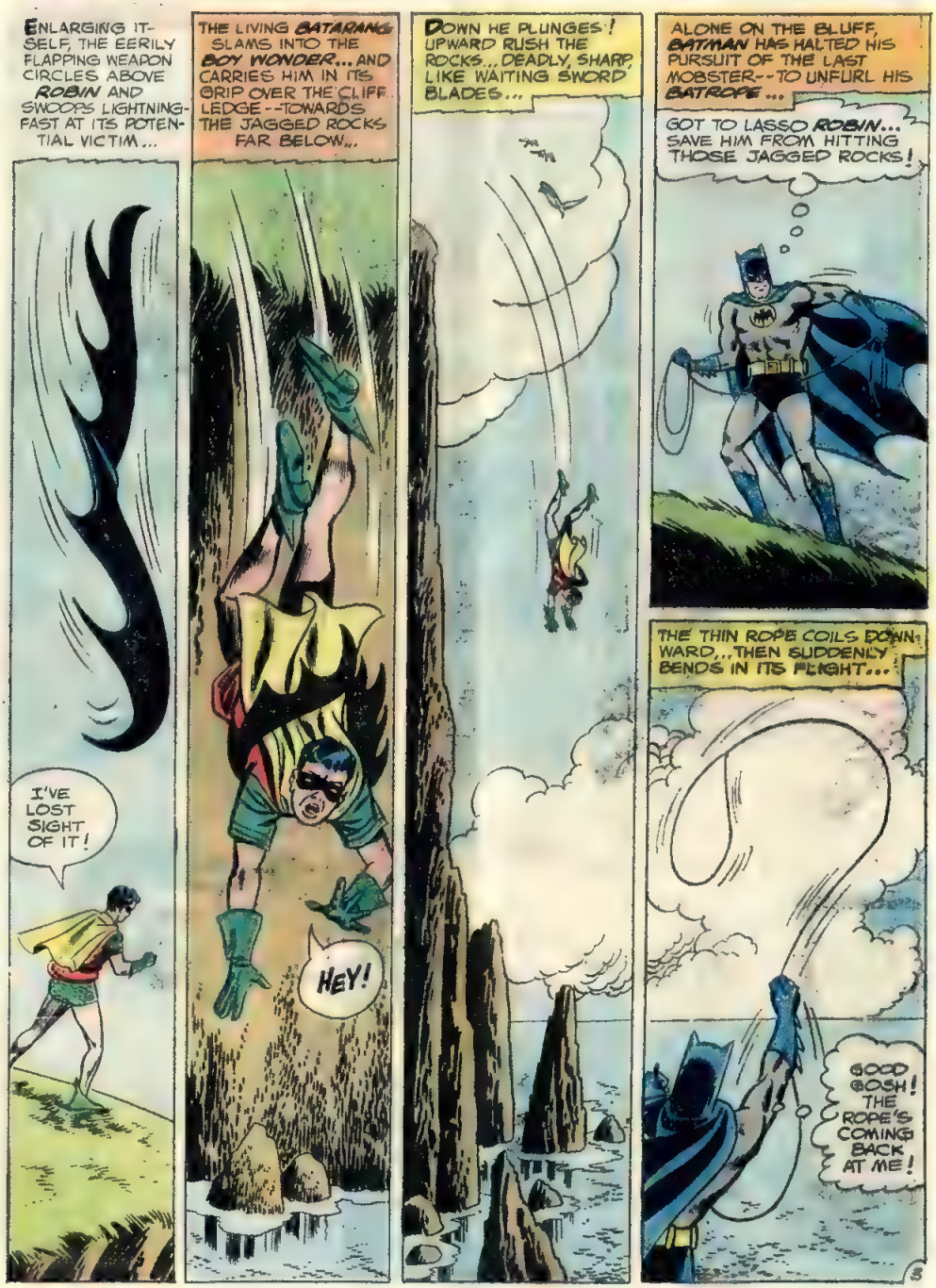
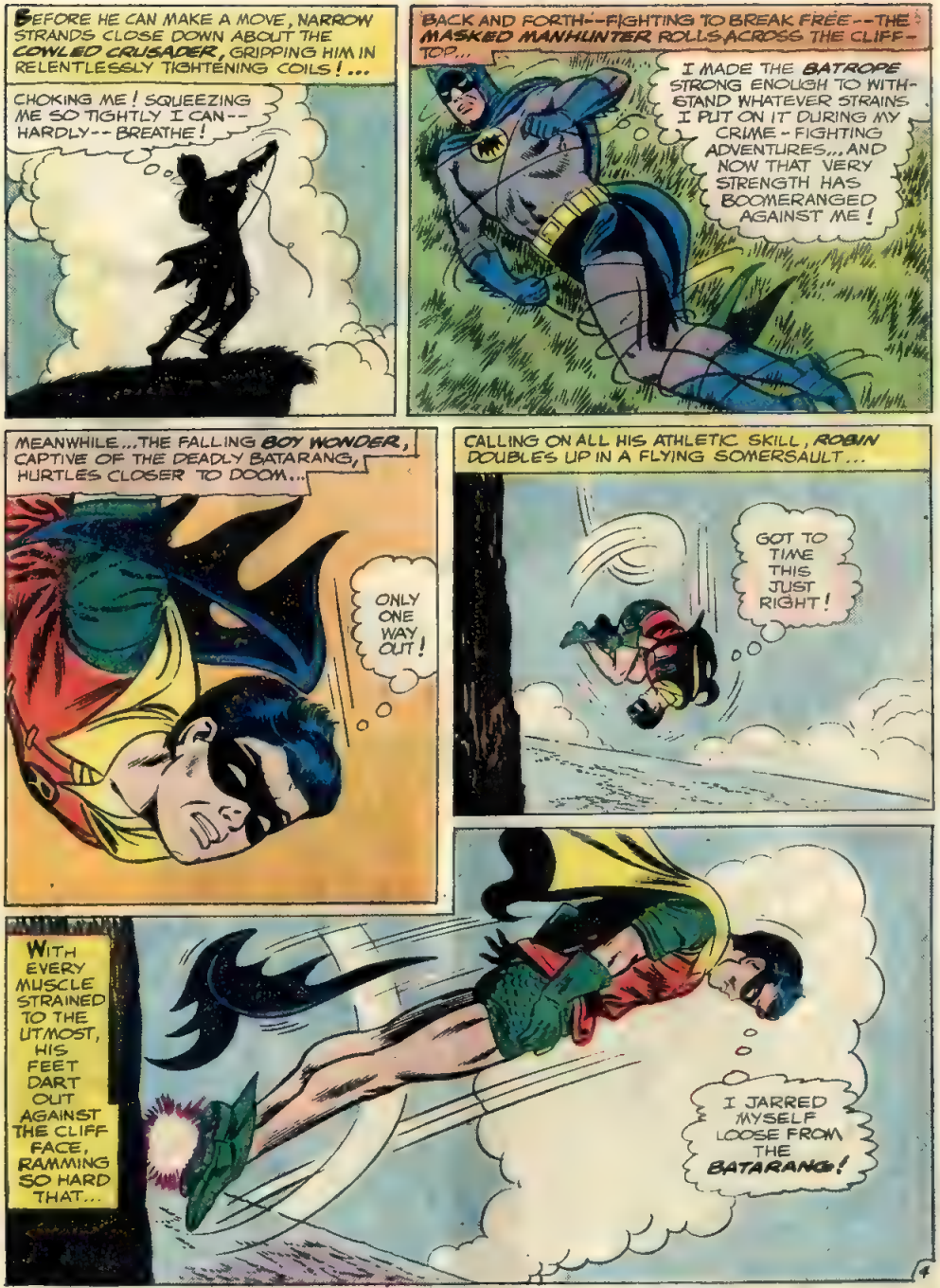
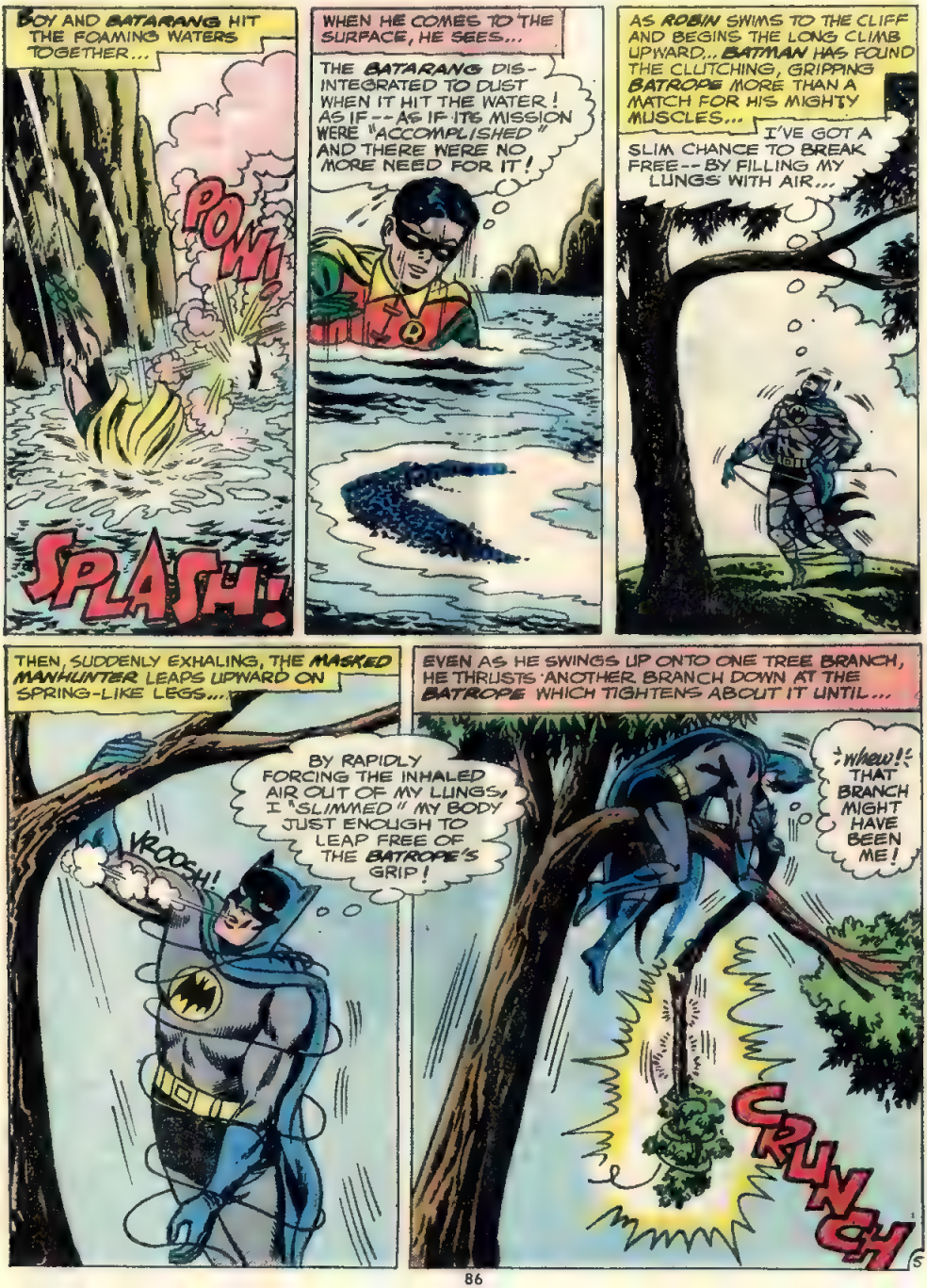
THE OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN

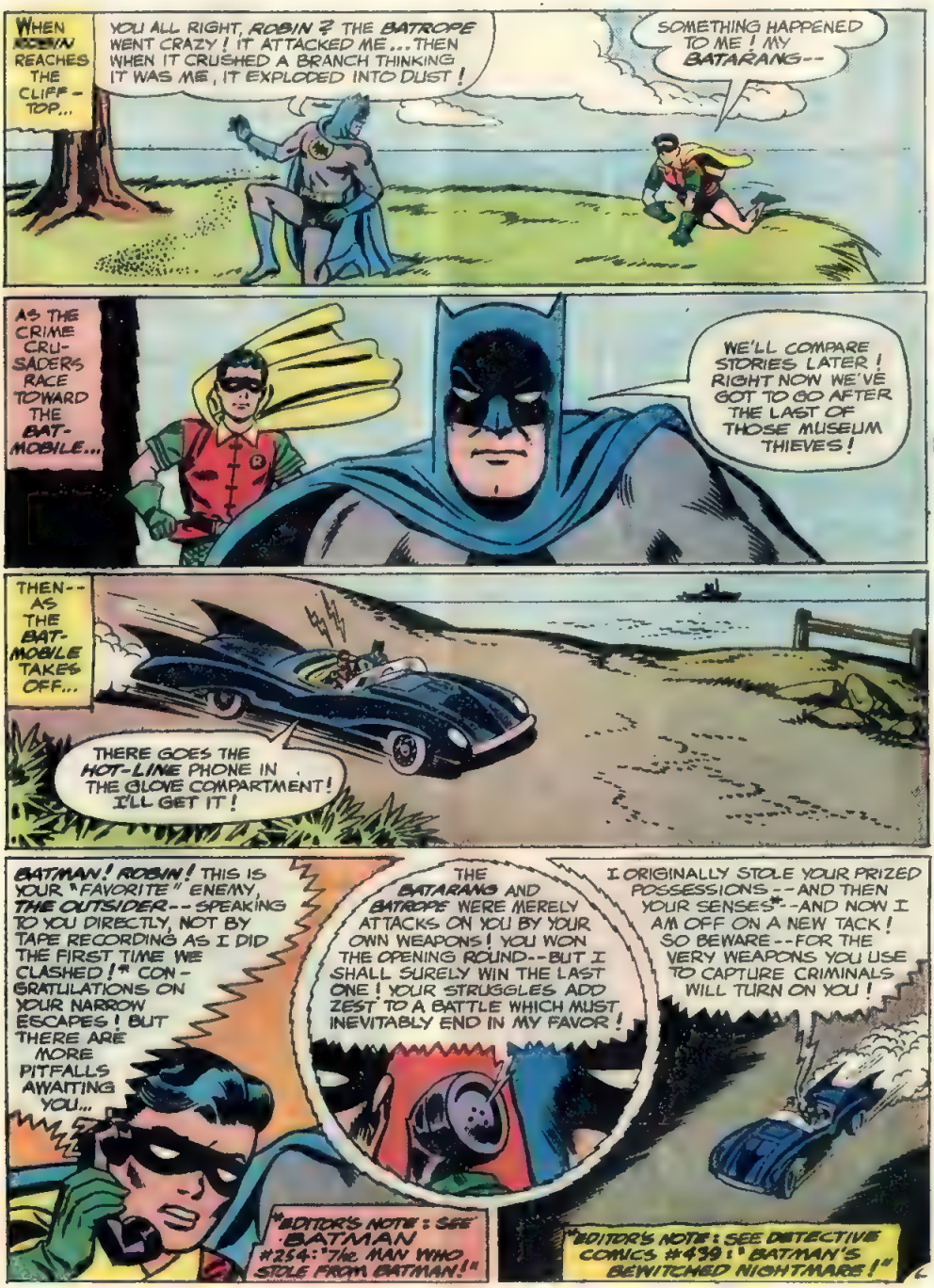

A GOLDEN BEAD FLOATING IN A BOWL OF WATER--THIS IS THE WEAPON...
A FINGER... OR IS IT AN APPENDAGE?--IS INSERTED WITHIN THE BOWL, STIRRING THE WATER INTO SWIRLING MOTION...
AND THROUGH THE WATER RIPPLES APPEAR THE DISTORTED FEATURES OF THE SELF-STYLED OUTSIDER--THIS IS THE ENEMY...


AND HERE ARE THE VICTIMS-TO-BE... BATMAN AND ROBIN, ENEMIES OF EVILDOERS, AS THEY RACE ACROSS THE ROCKY CLIFFS OF PIRATE BLUFF...
WE'VE NABBED ALL THE CROOKS WHO TRIED TO ROB THE SEASIDE MUSEUM, BUT ONE!
I'LL BRING HIM DOWN WITH THE BATARANG!
MUSEUM
THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT HURLS HIS WEAPON STRAIGHT AND TRUE! UPWARD IT SOARS INTO THE AIR...
SUDDENLY IN MID-FLIGHT--THE GRIPPING EDGES OF THE BATARANG RISE AND FALL LIKE A PAIR OF BEATING WINGS...
M-MY BATARANG... IT'S COME ALIVE!
2


ENLARGING ITSELF, THE EERILY FLAPPING WEAPON CIRCLES ABOVE ROBIN AND SWOOPS LIGHTNING-FAST AT ITS POTENTIAL VICTIM...
I'VE LOST SIGHT OF IT!
THE LIVING BATARANG SLAMS INTO THE BOY WONDER... AND CARRIES HIM IN ITS GRIP OVER THE CLIFF LEDGE--TOWARDS THE JAGGED ROCKS FAR BELOW...
HEY!
DOWN HE PLUNGES! UPWARD RUSH THE ROCKS... DEADLY, SHARP, LIKE WAITING SWORD BLADES...
ALONE ON THE BLUFF, BATMAN HAS HALTED HIS PURSUIT OF THE LAST MOBSTER--TO UNFURL HIS BATROPE...
GOT TO LASSO ROBIN... SAVE HIM FROM HITTING THOSE JAGGED ROCKS!
THE THIN ROPE COILS DOWNWARD,..THEN SUDDENLY BENDS IN ITS FLIGHT...
GOOD GOSH! THE ROPE'S COMING BACK AT ME!


BEFORE HE CAN MAKE A MOVE, NARROW STRANDS CLOSE DOWN ABOUT THE COWLED CRUSADER, GRIPPING HIM IN RELENTLESSLY TIGHTENING COILS!...
CHOKING ME! SQUEEZING ME SO TIGHTLY I CAN-- HARDLY-- BREATHE!
BACK AND FORTH--FIGHTING TO BREAK FREE--THE MASKED MANHUNTER ROLLS ACROSS THE CLIFF-TOP...
I MADE THE BATROPE STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND WHATEVER STRAINS I PUT ON IT DURING MY CRIME-FIGHTING ADVENTURES,,, AND NOW THAT VERY STRENGTH HAS BOOMERANGED AGAINST ME!
MEANWHILE...THE FALLING BOY WONDER, CAPTIVE OF THE DEADLY BATARANG, HURTLES CLOSER TO DOOM...
ONLY ONE WAY OUT!
CALLING ON ALL HIS ATHLETIC SKILL, ROBIN DOUBLES UP IN A FLYING SOMERSAULT...
GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT!
WITH EVERY MUSCLE STRAINED TO THE UTMOST, HIS FEET DART OUT AGAINST THE CLIFF FACE, RAMMING SO HARD THAT...
I JARRED MYSELF LOOSE FROM THE BATARANG!
4


BOY AND BATARANG HIT THE FOAMING WATERS TOGETHER...
POW!
SPLASH!
WHEN HE COMES TO THE SURFACE, HE SEES...
THE BATARANG DISINTEGRATED TO DUST WHEN IT HIT THE WATER! AS IF--AS IF ITS MISSION WERE "ACCOMPLISHED" AND THERE WERE NO MORE NEED FOR IT!
AS ROBIN SWIMS TO THE CLIFF AND BEGINS THE LONG CLIMB UPWARD.. BATMAN HAS FOUND THE CLUTCHING, GRIPPING BATROPE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES...
I'VE GOT A SLIM CHANCE TO BREAK FREE--BY FILLING MY LUNGS WITH AIR...
THEN, SUDDENLY EXHALING, THE MASKED MANHUNTER LEAPS UPWARD ON SPRING-LIKE LEGS...
VROOSH!
BY RAPIDLY FORCING THE INHALED AIR OUT OF MY LUNGS, I "SLIMMED" MY BODY JUST ENOUGH TO LEAP FREE OF THE BATROPE'S GRIP!
EVEN AS HE SWINGS UP ONTO ONE TREE BRANCH, HE THRUSTS ANOTHER BRANCH DOWN AT THE BATROPE WHICH TIGHTENS ABOUT IT UNTIL...
WHEW!! THAT BRANCH MIGHT HAVE BEEN ME!
CRUNCH


WHEN ROBIN REACHES THE CLIFF-TOP...
YOU ALL RIGHT, ROBIN? THE BATROPE WENT CRAZY! IT ATTACKED ME...THEN WHEN IT CRUSHED A BRANCH THINKING IT WAS ME, IT EXPLODED INTO DUST!
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME! MY BATARANG--
AS THE CRIME CRU-SADERS RACE TOWARD THE BAT-MOBILE...
WE'LL COMPARE STORIES LATER! RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THE LAST OF THOSE MUSEUM THIEVES!
THEN--AS THE BAT-MOBILE TAKES OFF...
THERE GOES THE HOT-LINE PHONE IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT! I'LL GET IT!
BATMAN! ROBIN! THIS IS YOUR "FAVORITE" ENEMY, THE OUTSIDER--SPEAKING TO YOU DIRECTLY, NOT BY TAPE RECORDING AS I DID THE FIRST TIME WE CLASHED!" CON-GRATULATIONS ON YOUR NARROW ESCAPES! BUT THERE ARE MORE PITFALLS AWAITING YOU...
THE BATARANG AND BATROPE WERE MERELY ATTACKS ON YOU BY YOUR OWN WEAPONS! YOU WON THE OPENING ROUND--BUT I SHALL SURELY WIN THE LAST ONE! YOUR STRUGGLES ADD ZEST TO A BATTLE WHICH MUST INEVITABLY END IN MY FAVOR!
I ORIGINALLY STOLE YOUR PRIZED POSSESSIONS--AND THEN YOUR SENSES--AND NOW I AM OFF ON A NEW TACK! SO BEWARE--FOR THE VERY WEAPONS YOU USE TO CAPTURE CRIMINALS WILL TURN ON YOU!
"EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE BATMAN #254: "The MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN!"
"EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE DETECTIVE COMICS #439: "BATMAN'S BEWITCHED NIGHTMARE!"

"HOW CAN I MANAGE THIS FEAT, YOU WONDER? KNOW THEN, THAT LIFE ON EARTH BEGAN IN ITS SEAS, TWO BILLION YEARS AGO, WHEN COMPLEX ORGANIC MOLECULES WERE BUILT UNDER THE BOMBARDMENT OF SOLAR AND RADIO-ACTIVE AGENCIES..."

"THESE WERE THE FIRST STEPPING-STONES OF LIFE, WHICH GRADUALLY BUILT UP INTO MORE COMPLEX LIFE-FORMS SUCH AS THE FIRST CREATURES THAT CRAWLED OUT UPON THE LAND..."

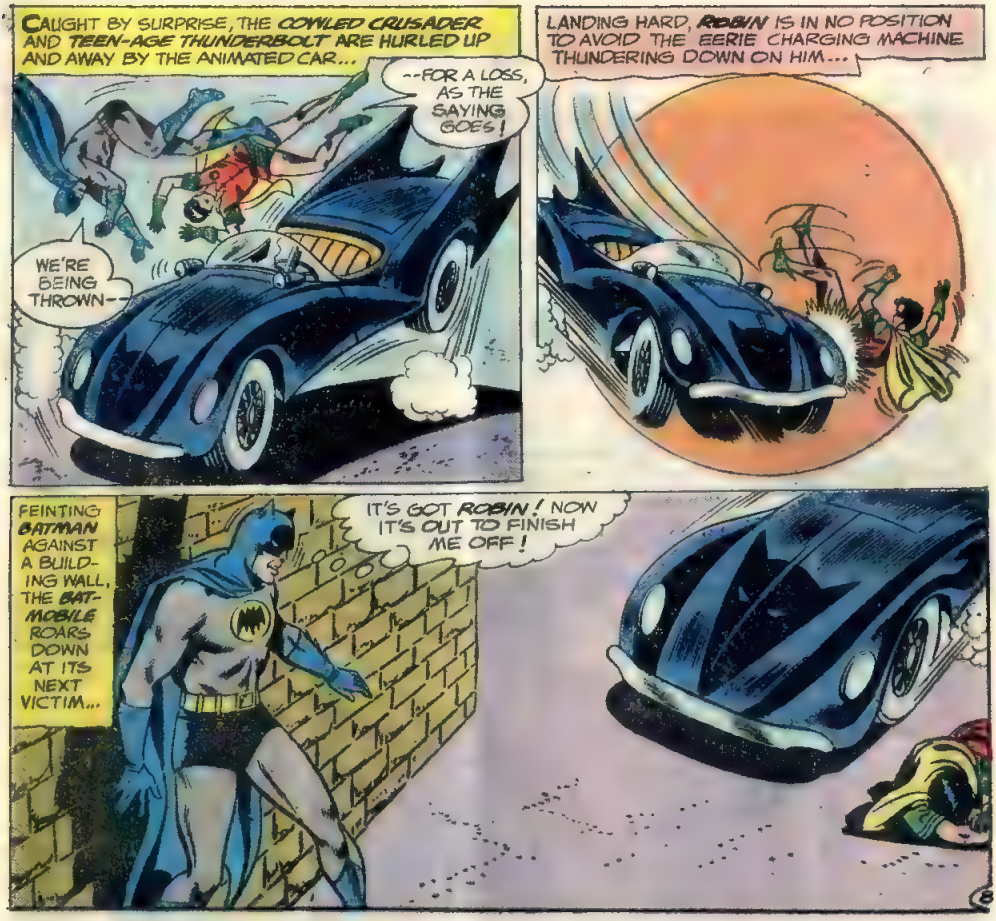
"THE KEYSTONE OF THIS PREHISTORIC LIFE-FORM WAS A NUCLEIC ACID-MOLECULE -- CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING ITSELF. THE MISSING FACTOR WHICH CREATED SUCH A MOLECULE IS A GOLDEN *BEAD* IMBUED WITH A MYSTERIOUS LIFE RADIATION...

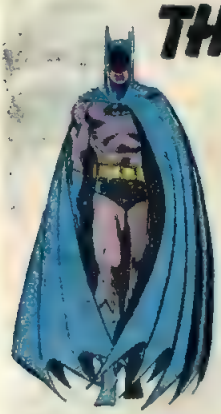
"REASONING THAT THIS LIFE FACTOR MUST STILL BE IN THE SEA, I SET OUT TO FIND IT! AFTER GAINING POSSESSION OF IT, EXPERIMENTS DEMONSTRATED THAT BY TOUCHING THIS GOLDEN BAUBLE TO AN INANIMATE OBJECT, I COULD ENDOW IT WITH LIFE -- SUBJECT TO MY CONTROL!..."

WHY AM I SO GENEROUS TO TELL YOU ALL THIS? BECAUSE THE INFORMATION CANNOT POSSIBLY HELP YOU IN YOUR PLUNGE TO DISASTER! NOR WILL IT HELP YOU TO LEARN *HOW* I WAS ABLE TO TOUCH MY BEAD OF LIFE TO THE *BATARANG* AND *BATROPE*! NOW, BEFORE SIGNING OFF...

BENEATH THEM *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* FEEL THE SURGE OF POWER THAT GRIPS THE *BATMOBILE* AS THEIR FAITHFUL CONVEYANCE RISES UPWARD LIKE A BUCKING BRONCO...

I LEAVE YOU TO FIGHT FOR YOUR LIVES AGAINST YOUR *BATMOBILE*!


CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, THE COWLED CRUSADER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT ARE HURLED UP AND AWAY BY THE ANIMATED CAR...
--FOR A LOSS, AS THE SAYING GOES!
WE'RE BEING THROWN--
LANDING HARD, ROBIN IS IN NO POSITION TO AVOID THE EERIE CHARGING MACHINE THUNDERING DOWN ON HIM...
FEINTING BATMAN AGAINST A BUILDING WALL, THE BAT-MOBILE ROARS DOWN AT ITS NEXT VICTIM...
IT'S GOT ROBIN! NOW IT'S OUT TO FINISH ME OFF!

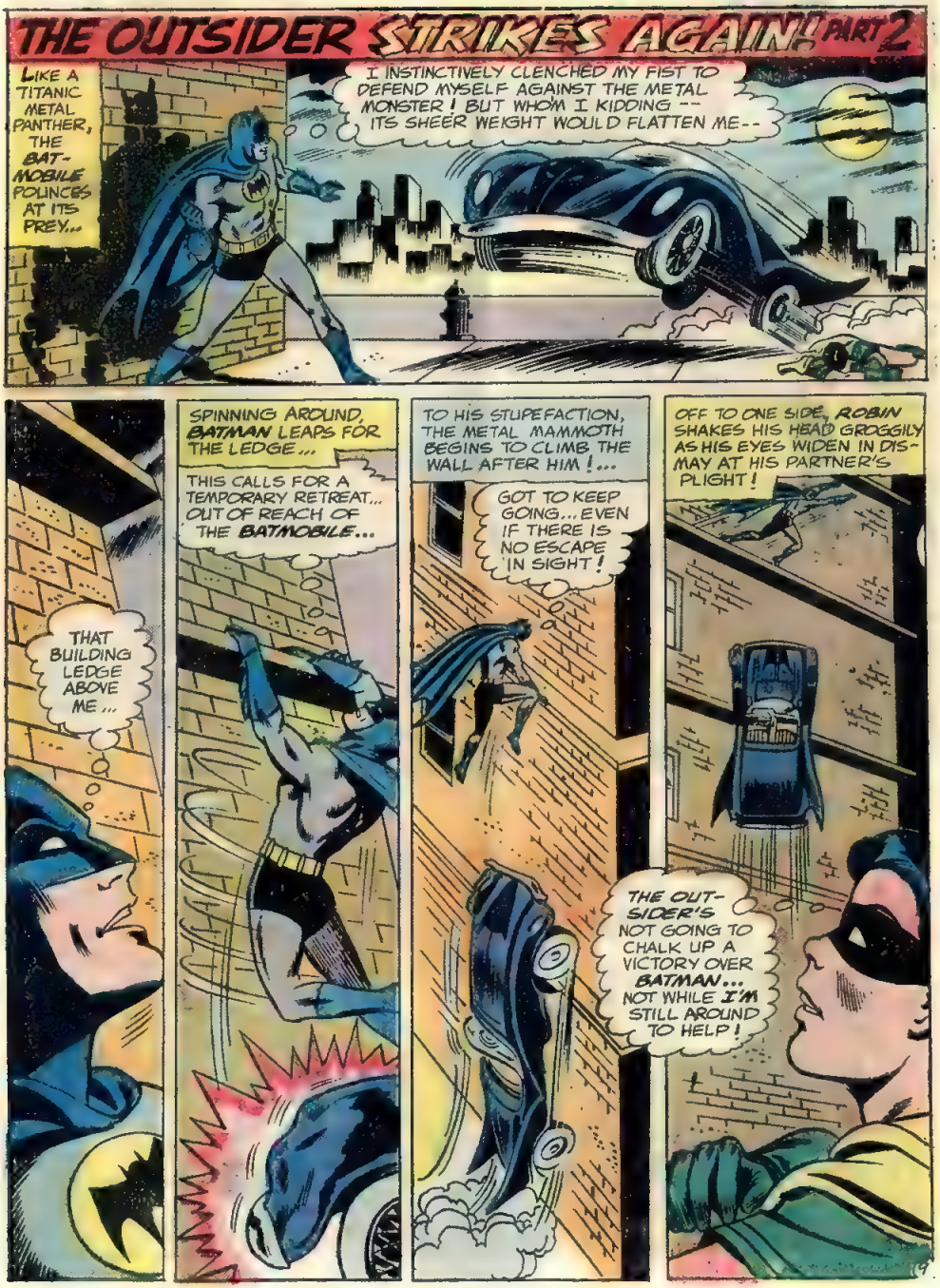


THE MASKED MANHUNTER...
WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE
APPEARS IN

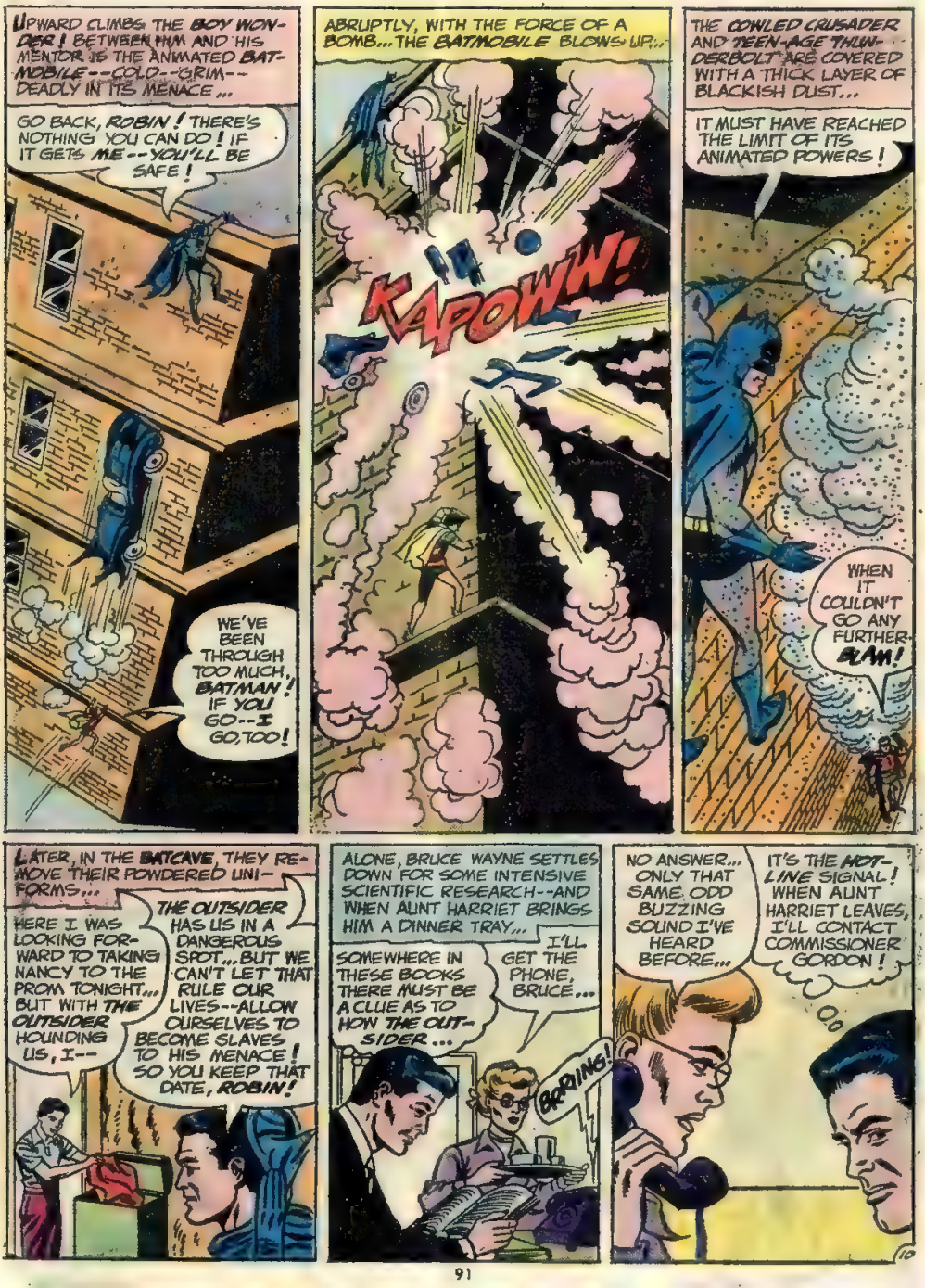
BATMAN
DETECTIVE COMICS
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS
THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

DC

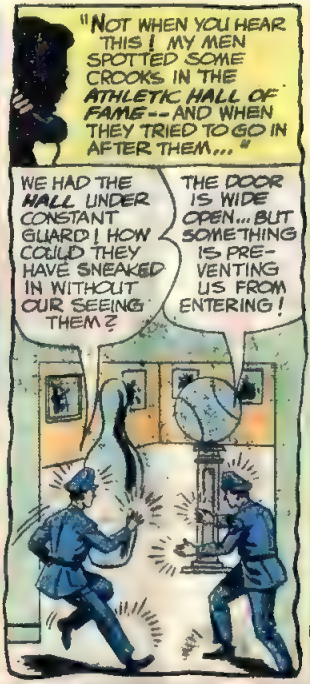
THE OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN! PART 2


LIKE A TITANIC METAL PANTHER, THE BAT-MOBILE POUNCES AT ITS PREY...
I INSTINCTIVELY CLENCHED MY FIST TO DEFEND MYSELF AGAINST THE METAL MONSTER! BUT WHOM I KIDDING -- ITS SHEER WEIGHT WOULD FLATTEN ME--
THAT BUILDING LEDGE ABOVE ME...
SPINNING AROUND, BATMAN LEAPS FOR THE LEDGE...
THIS CALLS FOR A TEMPORARY RETREAT... OUT OF REACH OF THE BATMOBILE...
TO HIS STUPEFACTION, THE METAL MAMMOTH BEGINS TO CLIMB THE WALL AFTER HIM!...
GOT TO KEEP GOING... EVEN IF THERE IS NO ESCAPE IN SIGHT!
OFF TO ONE SIDE, ROBIN SHAKES HIS HEAD GROGGILY AS HIS EYES WIDEN IN DISMAY AT HIS PARTNER'S PLIGHT!
THE OUTSIDER'S NOT GOING TO CHALK UP A VICTORY OVER BATMAN... NOT WHILE I'M STILL AROUND TO HELP!

THE OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN


UPWARD CLIMBS THE BOY WONDER! BETWEEN HIM AND HIS MENTOR IS THE ANIMATED BATMOBILE--COLD--GRIM--DEADLY IN ITS MENACE...
GO BACK, ROBIN! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO! IF IT GETS ME--YOU'LL BE SAFE!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH, BATMAN! IF YOU GO--I GO, TOO!
ABRUPTLY, WITH THE FORCE OF A BOMB... THE BATMOBILE BLOWS UP...
KAPOWW!
THE COWLED CRUSADER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT ARE COVERED WITH A THICK LAYER OF BLACKISH DUST...
IT MUST HAVE REACHED THE LIMIT OF ITS ANIMATED POWERS!
WHEN IT COULDN'T GO ANY FURTHER-BLAM!
LATER, IN THE BATCAVE, THEY REMOVE THEIR POWDERED UNIFORMS...
HERE I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING NANCY TO THE PROM TONIGHT... BUT WITH THE OUTSIDER HOUNDING US, I--
THE OUTSIDER HAS US IN A DANGEROUS SPOT... BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT RULE OUR LIVES--ALLOW OURSELVES TO BECOME SLAVES TO HIS MENACE! SO YOU KEEP THAT DATE, ROBIN!
ALONE, BRUCE WAYNE SETTLES DOWN FOR SOME INTENSIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH--AND WHEN AUNT HARRIET BRINGS HIM A DINNER TRAY...
SOMEWHERE IN THESE BOOKS THERE MUST BE A CLUE AS TO HOW THE OUTSIDER...
I'LL GET THE PHONE, BRUCE...
BRRING!
NO ANSWER... ONLY THAT SAME, ODD BUZZING SOUND I'VE HEARD BEFORE...
IT'S THE HOT-LINE SIGNAL! WHEN AUNT HARRIET LEAVES, I'LL CONTACT COMMISSIONER GORDON!

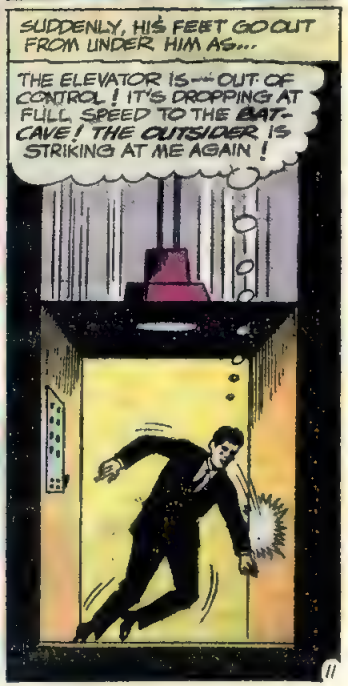
PRESSING A CONCEALED BUTTON IN THE PHONE, HE IS SOON SPEAKING WITH THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER...
AN EMERGENCY HAS JUST COME UP, BATMAN! WE NEED YOUR HELP!
SIGH! I'M BUSY ON ANOTHER CASE! CAN'T YOU HANDLE IT WITHOUT ME?


"NOT WHEN YOU HEAR THIS! MY MEN SPOTTED SOME CROOKS IN THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME--AND WHEN THEY TRIED TO GO IN AFTER THEM..."
WE HAD THE HALL UNDER CONSTANT GUARD! HOW COULD THEY HAVE SNEAKED IN WITHOUT OUR SEEING THEM?
THE DOOR IS WIDE OPEN...BUT SOMETHING IS PREVENTING US FROM ENTERING!

"SUDDENLY, ABOVE THE DOORWAY, FLAMING LETTERS APPEARED..."
IF THE CROOKS HAD A SECRET WAY TO GET IN, THEY MUST HAVE A SECRET WAY TO GET OUT!
THIS ENTRANCE RESERVED FOR BATMAN ONLY!
WE'D BETTER SEND FOR BATMAN RIGHT AWAY!

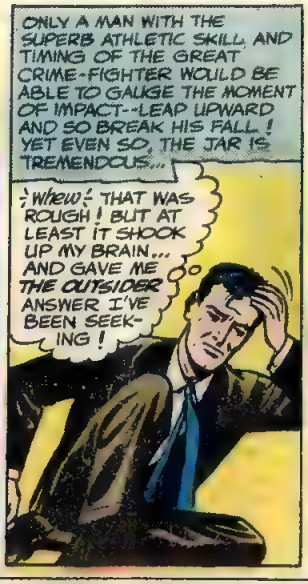
YOU SEE NOW WHY WE CAN'T HANDLE THIS WITHOUT YOU, BATMAN!
I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

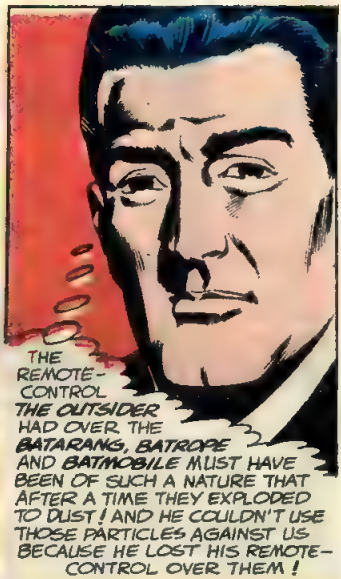
A MOMENT LATER, BRUCE WAYNE STEPS INTO THE SECRET ELEVATOR LEADING TO THE BATCAVE...
THIS WOULD HAPPEN... JUST WHEN I WAS ON THE VERGE OF FIGURING OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THE OUTSIDER--!

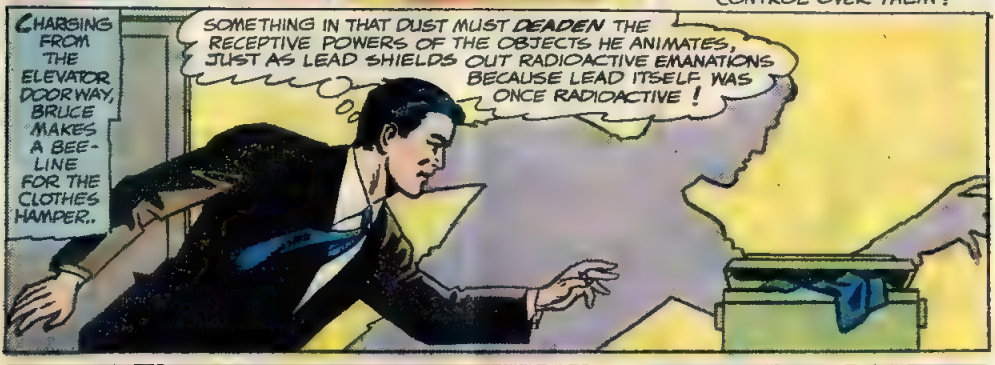

SUDDENLY, HIS FEET GO OUT FROM UNDER HIM AS...
THE ELEVATOR IS--OUT OF CONTROL! IT'S DROPPING AT FULL SPEED TO THE BATCAVE! THE OUTSIDER IS STRIKING AT ME AGAIN!

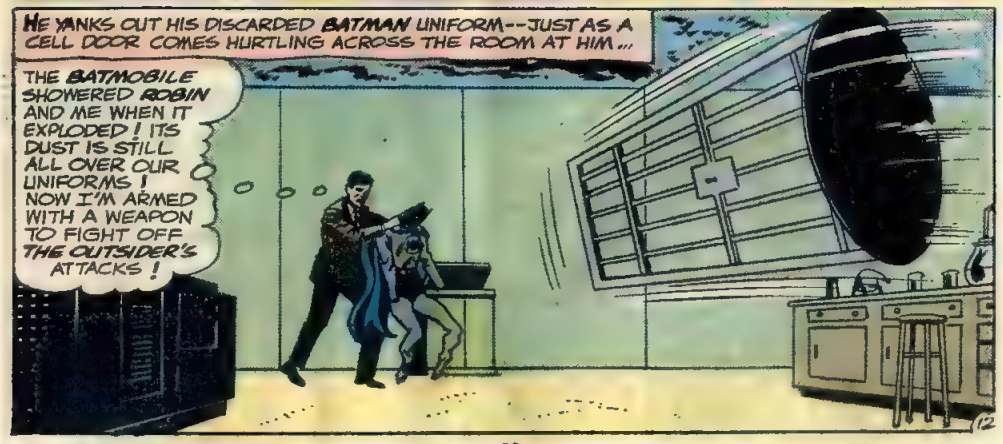
THE OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN

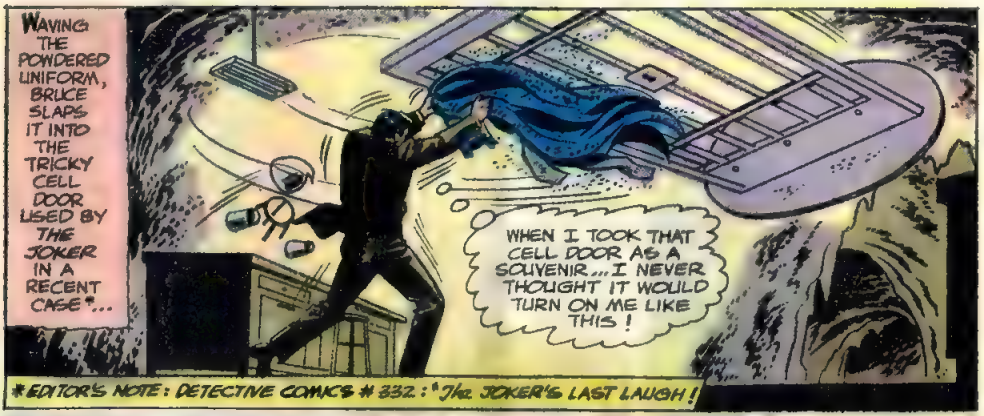
SEEMINGLY THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR THE MANHUNTER AS THE METAL BOX HURLS HIM DOWNWARD! HE IS TRAPPED--IMPRISONED INSIDE HIS OWN DEATH-MISSILE...

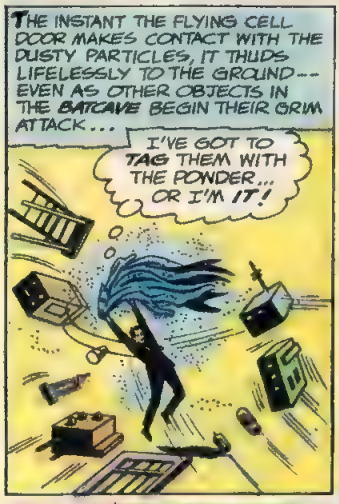

ONLY A MAN WITH THE SUPERB ATHLETIC SKILL AND TIMING OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER WOULD BE ABLE TO GAUGE THE MOMENT OF IMPACT--LEAP UPWARD AND SO BREAK HIS FALL! YET EVEN SO, THE JAR IS TREMENDOUS...
;WHEW! THAT WAS ROUGH! BUT AT LEAST IT SHOOK UP MY BRAIN... AND GAVE ME THE OUTSIDER ANSWER I'VE BEEN SEEKING!

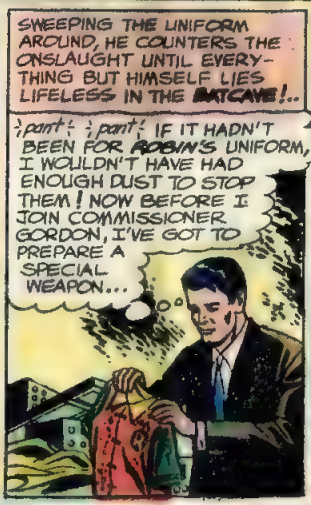

THE REMOTE-CONTROL THE OUTSIDER HAD OVER THE BATARANG, BATROPE AND BATMOBILE MUST HAVE BEEN OF SUCH A NATURE THAT AFTER A TIME THEY EXPLODED TO DUST! AND HE COULDN'T USE THOSE PARTICLES AGAINST US BECAUSE HE LOST HIS REMOTE-CONTROL OVER THEM!


CHARGING FROM THE ELEVATOR DOORWAY, BRUCE MAKES A BEE-LINE FOR THE CLOTHES HAMPER..
SOMETHING IN THAT DUST MUST DEADEN THE RECEPTIVE POWERS OF THE OBJECTS HE ANIMATES, JUST AS LEAD SHIELDS OUT RADIOACTIVE EMANATIONS BECAUSE LEAD ITSELF WAS ONCE RADIOACTIVE!


HE YANKS OUT HIS DISCARDED BATMAN UNIFORM--JUST AS A CELL DOOR COMES HURTLING ACROSS THE ROOM AT HIM...
THE BATMOBILE SHOWERED ROBIN AND ME WHEN IT EXPLODED! ITS DUST IS STILL ALL OVER OUR UNIFORMS! NOW I'M ARMED WITH A WEAPON TO FIGHT OFF THE OUTSIDER'S ATTACKS!


WAVING THE POWDERED UNIFORM, BRUCE SLAPS IT INTO THE TRICKY CELL DOOR USED BY THE JOKER IN A RECENT CASE*...
WHEN I TOOK THAT CELL DOOR AS A SOUVENIR... I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD TURN ON ME LIKE THIS!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: DETECTIVE COMICS # 332: "The JOKER'S LAST LAUGH!"

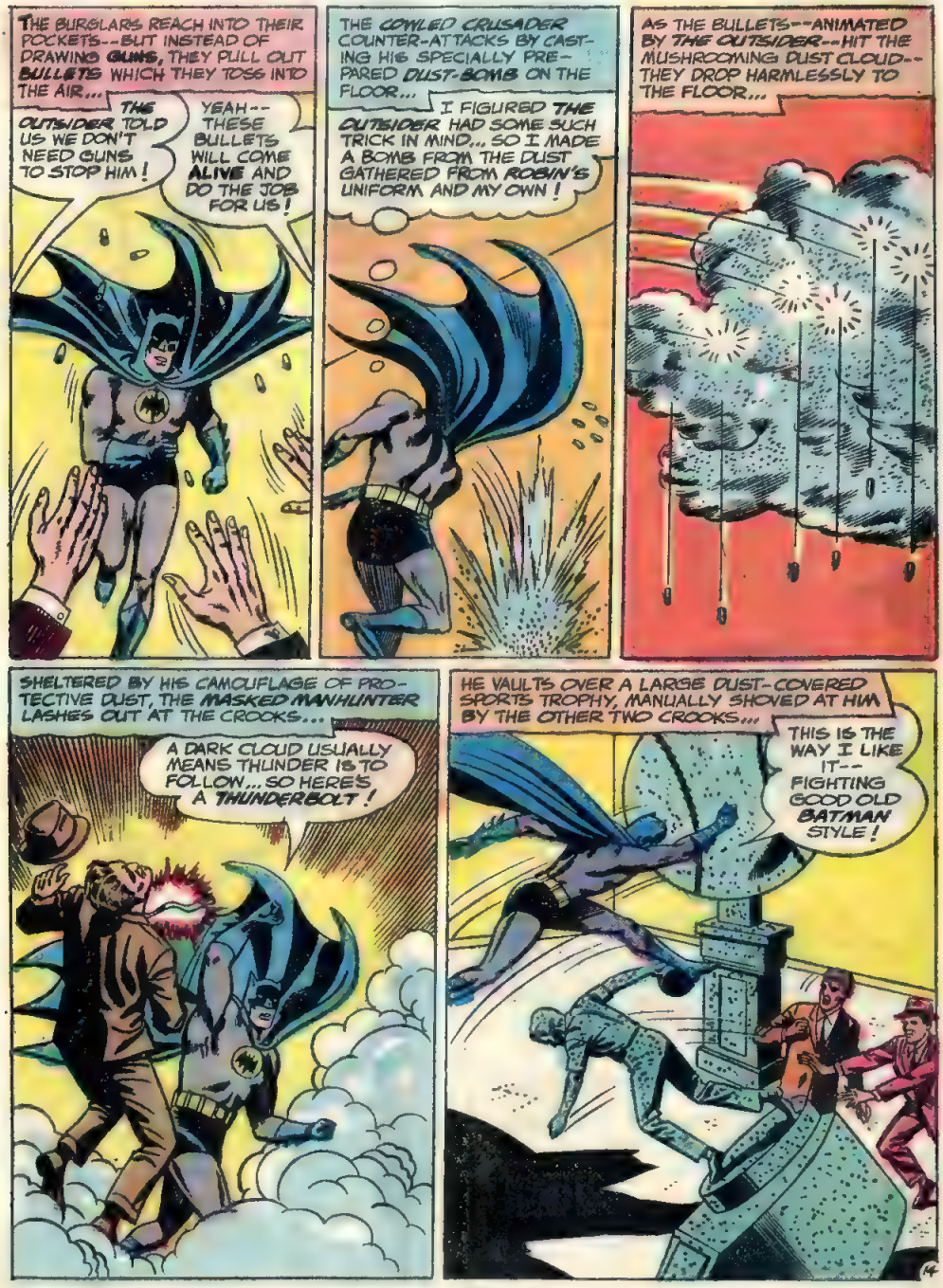

THE INSTANT THE FLYING CELL DOOR MAKES CONTACT WITH THE DUSTY PARTICLES, IT THUDS LIFELESSLY TO THE GROUND -- EVEN AS OTHER OBJECTS IN THE BATCAVE BEGIN THEIR GRIM ATTACK...
I'VE GOT TO TAG THEM WITH THE POWDER... OR I'M IT!

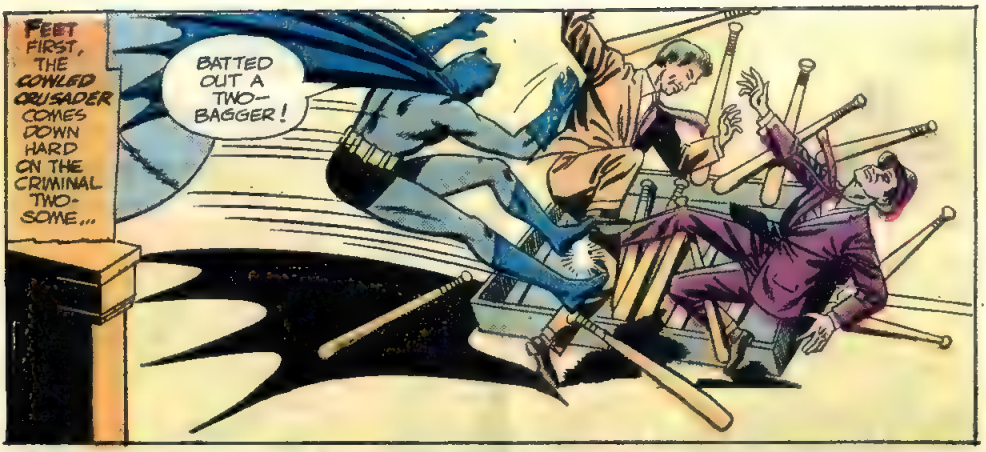

SWEEPING THE UNIFORM AROUND, HE COUNTERS THE ONSLAUGHT UNTIL EVERY-THING BUT HIMSELF LIES LIFELESS IN THE BATCAVE!..
;pant; ;pant; IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ROBIN'S UNIFORM, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD ENOUGH DUST TO STOP THEM! NOW BEFORE I JOIN COMMISSIONER GORDON, I'VE GOT TO PREPARE A SPECIAL WEAPON...

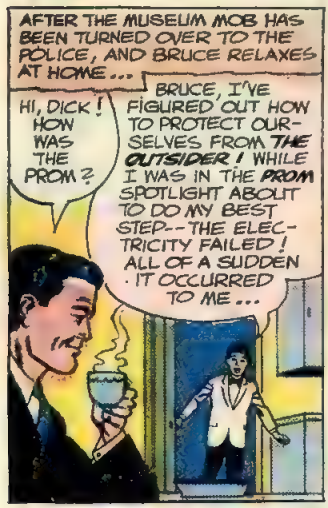
SOON IN HIS DE-ANIMATED BATCOPTER, BATMAN IS ON HIS WAY TOWARD THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME...
NOW I'M READY FOR THE OUTSIDER... AND MAY THE BETTER WEAPON WIN!

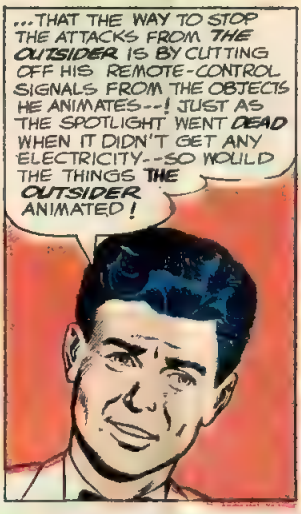
THROUGH THE ENTRANCE RESERVED ESPECIALLY FOR HIM, THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER HURTLES...
HERE COMES BATMAN!
THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--
--TO FINISH HIM OFF WITH OUR SPECIAL PREPARED BULLETS!
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
13

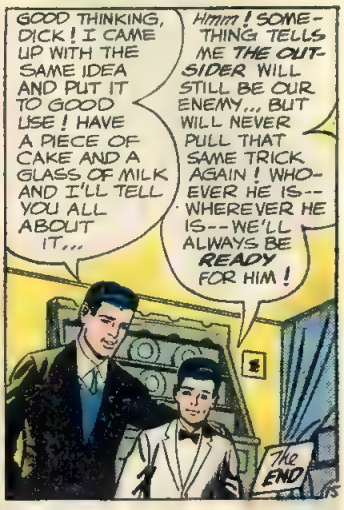
THE OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN


THE BURGLARS REACH INTO THEIR POCKETS--BUT INSTEAD OF DRAWING GUNS, THEY PULL OUT BULLETS WHICH THEY TOSS INTO THE AIR...
THE OUTSIDER TOLD US WE DON'T NEED GUNS TO STOP HIM!
YEAH--THESE BULLETS WILL COME ALIVE AND DO THE JOB FOR US!
THE COWLED CRUSADER COUNTER-ATTACKS BY CASTING HIS SPECIALLY PREPARED DUST-BOMB ON THE FLOOR...
I FIGURED THE OUTSIDER HAD SOME SUCH TRICK IN MIND... SO I MADE A BOMB FROM THE DUST GATHERED FROM ROBIN'S UNIFORM AND MY OWN!
AS THE BULLETS--ANIMATED BY THE OUTSIDER--HIT THE MUSHROOMING DUST CLOUD--THEY DROP HARMLESSLY TO THE FLOOR...
SHELTERED BY HIS CAMOUFLAGE OF PROTECTIVE DUST, THE MASKED MANHUNTER LASHES OUT AT THE CROOKS...
A DARK CLOUD USUALLY MEANS THUNDER IS TO FOLLOW... SO HERE'S A THUNDERBOLT!
HE VAULTS OVER A LARGE DUST-COVERED SPORTS TROPHY, MANUALLY SHOVED AT HIM BY THE OTHER TWO CROOKS...
THIS IS THE WAY I LIKE IT--FIGHTING GOOD OLD BATMAN STYLE!



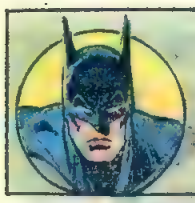

AFTER THE MUSELIM MOB HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE, AND BRUCE RELAXES AT HOME...
HI, DICK! HOW WAS THE PROM?
BRUCE, I'VE FIGURED OUT HOW TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THE OUTSIDER! WHILE I WAS IN THE PROM SPOTLIGHT ABOUT TO DO MY BEST STEP--THE ELECTRICITY FAILED! ALL OF A SUDDEN IT OCCURRED TO ME...


...THAT THE WAY TO STOP THE ATTACKS FROM THE OUTSIDER IS BY CUTTING OFF HIS REMOTE-CONTROL SIGNALS FROM THE OBJECTS HE ANIMATES--! JUST AS THE SPOTLIGHT WENT DEAD WHEN IT DIDN'T GET ANY ELECTRICITY--SO WOULD THE THINGS THE OUTSIDER ANIMATED!


GOOD THINKING, DICK! I CAME UP WITH THE SAME IDEA AND PUT IT TO GOOD USE! HAVE A PIECE OF CAKE AND A GLASS OF MILK AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT...
Hmm! SOMETHING TELLS ME THE OUTSIDER WILL STILL BE OUR ENEMY... BUT WILL NEVER PULL THAT SAME TRICK AGAIN! WHOEVER HE IS--WHEREVER HE IS--WE'LL ALWAYS BE READY FOR HIM!
The END

IN THE MAY ISSUE OF SUPER-SPECTACULAR
Detective COMICS #440
ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN JANUARY!
THE BATMAN FACES A CULT OF HUMAN SACRIFICE IN...
"GHOST MOUNTAIN MIDNIGHT!"
PLUS
BATMAN LEARNS THE SECRET OF HIS MYSTERIOUS FOE!
"INSIDE STORY OF THE OUTSIDER!"
AND STORIES OF HAWKMAN, DOLL MAN & GREEN LANTERN!
EXTRA!
THE NEW MANHUNTER IN "REBELLION!" and THE OLD MANHUNTER IN "COBRAS OF THE DEEP!"

AND IN THE JUNE SUPER-SPECTACULAR
BATMAN #256
A FAMILIAR FOE RETURNS IN
"CATWOMAN'S CIRCUS CAPER!"
JOIN THE BATMAN AND ROBIN AS THEY TANGLE WITH THE FELINE FELON UNDER THE BIG TOP!
EXCLUSIVE!
TALES OF THE BATMAN'S TROPHY ROOM!
INCLUDING THE SURPRISE STORIES BEHIND THIS GIANT PENNY--
"The PENNY PLUNDERERS!"
THIS FULL-SIZED DINOSAUR MODEL--
"DINOSAUR ISLAND!"
PLUS OTHER TROPHY ROOM TALES!
ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN FEBRUARY



EXTRA LETTERS to the BATMAN

S-1693

Dear Editor:

The mailman just delivered *Batman* #253 in a somewhat wrinkled condition. It took much smoothing and flattening before I could get the full effect of that beautiful Kaluta cover, a cover greatly enhanced by an unsurpassable coloring job.

I expected to enjoy the inside story as much as the cover, but I didn't . . . I liked it much better! Of the many comix stories I've read so far this year, "Who Knows What Evil—?" is my favorite. With characters like *The Batman* and *The Shadow*, how could it be less? Without these denizens of the night, Denny O'Neil's plot would have had trouble going ten(much less twenty)pages. *With* them, it became a masterpiece. Interesting the way *The Shadow* permeated the story even though he didn't make a visual appearance till page 14. Denny handled everything perfectly. What else can I say?

The art, while not as unquestionably great as the script, was still good. Novick draws *The Batman* well, and Giordano is the best at *Bat*-inking. In the few panels where we actually saw *The Shadow*, they portrayed him in excellent fashion.

In conclusion, this issue and #251 were so good I suggest you drop *Robin* and feature all novel-length *Batman stories. You might argue that the yarns featuring The Joker* and *The Shadow* were something special. Well, why can't *every* issue be a special one?

—PAUL D. EMRATH, Milwaukee, Wis.

(With or without Robin, *we're sure you'll find future* Batmans *to your liking. With our previous issue,* Batman *has become a "Super-Spectacular", featuring 20 pages of all-new material and a choice selection of reprint stories collected around a unique and different theme each issue! And, since you mention the guest-starring "impact" of* The Joker, *you might like to hear that next issue stars a certain* Feline Felon *in* "Catwoman's Circus Caper"; *followed hot on its heels by* "The Emperor Penguin" *in* Batman *#257—both by the same wonderful team that brought you #253's* Shadow *epic: O'Neil, Novick, and Giordano! . . . So what could be more* "special" *than* that?—MP*)*

Dear Editor:

Batman #253 served as an interesting introduction of *The Shadow* to *Batman*, but it was not particularly well-handled. Perhaps the prime reason was the lack of the proper mysterious mood until the last few pages. The setting was suitable for a tale of this type, although it wasn't the best. Even more important in the establishment of a certain mood are the characters. *Batman* was merely a common-place detective, and even *The Shadow* seemed to lack something.

I like to think that *The Batman* does not talk much at all when in costume, especially not in the middle of a fight. Witness pages 6 and 13. Between blows our hero is babbling about his fighting skill or his opponent's lack. It's hard to believe that while skillfully dodging and punching *Batman* is able to carry on a conversation; all in the two seconds the battle lasts! Annoying in an ordinary comic, it was awful here. All in all, I suppose it was not bad, but I had expected better. Oh, before I go, remind your artists that not only are full moons much less frequent than portrayed in this mag, they are also smaller in size!

—MARK DAVIS, Milwaukee, Wis.

(And before we go—to "moon" *over the fit of depression this LoC has left us in—we remind you, as editors before us have many times in the past, that seemingly implausibly-wordy dialog in protracted fight sequences is a long-standing convention of comix magazines; a device employing our own brand of artistic license, if you will. For the concluding comments on the* Batman-Shadow *team-up, we turn to the next correspondent . . . and someplace* other *than Milwaukee, Wisconsin! —*MP*)*

Dear Editor:

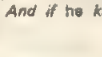
Well, it looks as though you have another *Batman* recruit. And I think issue #253 may be the reason why!

While I was at my favorite drug store buying the new comix for that week, I came across the new issue of *Batman*. I quickly dropped my other comix and yanked it out. Already freaked-out by the fantastic cover by Mike Kaluta (who ranks up there with Neal Adams and Berni Wrightson) and the first issue of *The Shadow*, I didn't care who the artist or writer was inside. But, what the heck—I checked anyway: Denny O'Neil! Now, if there's anyone who can write excellent stories, it's gotta be Denny!

The story was great! It kept me in the dark till the end, and that's the way I like it! On page 9, when you wrote, "Bruce *(Batman)* Wayne seems to have cracked the case! Have *you*?", I was thinking, "No way!", and that proves I'll never be a *Batman* (or a *Shadow*, for that matter)! Bringing *The Shadow* into *Batman's* mag was pure genius. He made the issue rank up there with some of the greatest mystery stories I know of! I thought it was kind of funny to see *The Shadow* so cool and calm while *The Batman* was telling him how great he was and how he was his greatest inspiration (and nervously, at that). And when *The Batman* asked him if he could shake his hand and *The Shadow* said, "The honor is mine!", he must've thought, "This guy thinks that the honor is *his*?!" And,speaking of *The Shadow* coming out of retirement, all I can say is that *Batman* was right when he said, "THE WORLD NEEDS YOU!" Indeed it does, *Shadow*, indeed it does . . .

—LEE LUMSDEN, Seattle, Wash.

(The generally enthusiastic response to Batman *#253 implies the unasked question, "Will* The Batman *meet up with* The Shadow *again?" The answer to* that, *we fear, is something that is less a matter of "only* The Shadow *knowing" as much as editor Julius Schwartz. And if he knows, he certainly isn't telling . . .* Marty Pasko*)*



THIS ISSUE'S BIBLIOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT: "The First Batman" originally appeared in *Detective Comics* #235 (Sept. 1956); "The Outsider Strikes Again" is from *Detective* #340 (June, 1965); "The Duped Domestics" first appeared in *Batman* #22 (Apr.-May, 1944); "The True-False Face of Batman" originated in *Detective* #363 (May, 1967); and "Crazy Quilt Comes Back" came from *Star-Spangled Comics* #123 (December, 1951).

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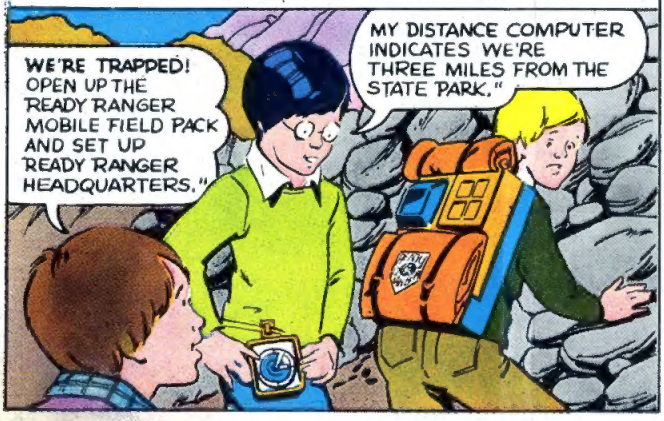
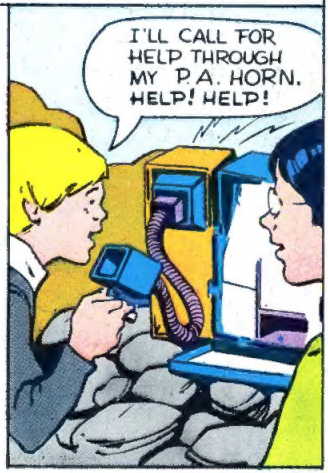
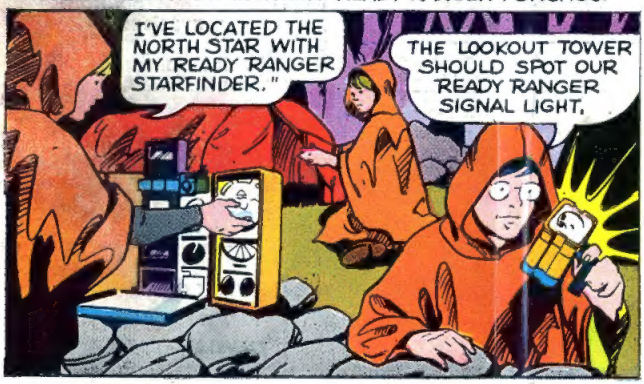
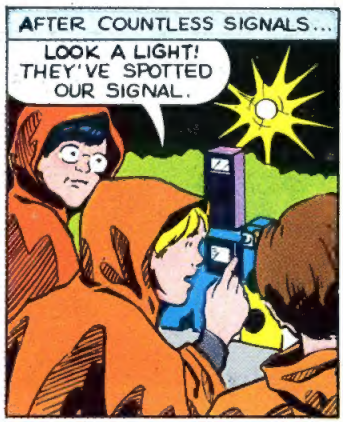

WE'RE TRAPPED! OPEN UP THE READY RANGER MOBILE FIELD PACK AND SET UP READY RANGER HEADQUARTERS."
MY DISTANCE COMPUTER INDICATES WE'RE THREE MILES FROM THE STATE PARK."



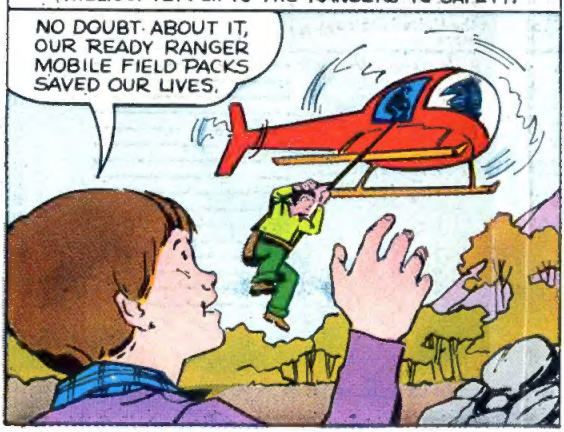
AS NIGHT FALLS, THE RANGERS PITCH THEIR TENTS AND HUDDLE TOGETHER IN THEIR READY RANGER PONCHOS.



AFTER COUNTLESS SIGNALS...



AT DAYBREAK, A HELICOPTER LIFTS THE RANGERS TO SAFETY.



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